

COMMEMORATIVE COIN TALES

BY PETER D. JONES MA MD MBA

COMMEMORATIVE COIN TALES

**Seventy short stories and their historical
background told by a collection of US classic
commemorative coins.**

Peter D Jones MA, MD, FACP, MBA

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PREFACE

This book describes a personal fascination. In 1983, aged 35, I flew with my wife Ann to Austria for a vacation. On the way there I browsed around a bookstore at the airport. My eye alighted on a book on bullion and diamond investing. I thought, as a young physician just embarking on professional life, that alternative investing was something I should know about. I bought the book and read it during the trip.

It just so happened that at that time in Austria all the banks had beautiful displays of gold and silver coins in their bank windows. This certainly tickled my interest, so when I returned home I determined to buy some bullion silver and gold. But then I saw an advertisement - a freebie offer of a silver Morgan dollar (named after George Morgan who designed it) from the Dallas Gold and Silver Exchange. When it arrived it was a circulated hefty 1921 coin. As I held it in my hand I thought: I wonder who held this before me. What was it like to live in 1921? What would this have bought in 1921? This seemed so much more interesting than buying a whole load of identical brand new coins for their bullion value. So in 1984 I joined the local coin club, the Mansfield Numismatic Society, of which I am now president.

I started going to coin shows and asking dealers what avenues they suggested. I listened intently but I never became enthused until at our coin club a coin came up in their auction. It was a cold winter's night in January 1985 and half the attendees had already left. Someone said the coin up for auction was a fugio cent. I had no idea what that was, but the date of 1787 seemed early for an American coin, and the bidding started at \$30. Fugio cents were the first coins minted by authority of the US. The design, by Benjamin Franklin, was a sundial with the word "Fugio", meaning "time flies". I thought this was too good to be true – a colonial era coin for a pittance, and got it for \$55. That hooked me on US Colonial coins. And no one seemed to be interested in them. Everyone seemed interested in US federal coins, which were so much more common and had so much less history to them. The idea of date collecting (the same coin with different dates) seemed totally sterile.

As time went on I collected mainly Colonial coins, but as I had obviously inherited "the collecting gene" I looked for other areas to collect. David Hall founded PCGS the Professional Coin Grading Company in 1986. Now coins could be sealed and certified in plastic slabs. This made them "fungible" items i.e. more easily traded and valued. Wall Street companies started investing in rare coins particularly the gem uncirculated grades, leaving the lower uncirculated grades for the collectors. And this included commemoratives. Collectors like to buy

and own coins, for their aesthetic, historic and other values, but inherent in this is the knowledge that their coins form a store of value.

Over the years I have collected Ancient Greek; Spanish colonial and shipwreck coins; US colonial coins; US medals; colonial, continental, confederate, and federal currency; English, French, and medieval coins; stock certificates, hard times tokens, and US type coins. So when looking around for an area to collect in 2006, US Classic Commemorative coins seemed to be a good buy, and to have the necessary requisites: history, diversity, beauty and affordable. Commemorative coins commemorate a particular person, place or event, with designs different from normal circulating coins. The classic commemorative coin era was 1892-1954. The modern commemorative coin era started 1982.

In 1991 I started going to the American Numismatic Association (ANA) Summer Seminars – a two-week nirvana for passionate coin collectors (numismatists). I have spent two weeks every summer ever since attending their educational sessions. For me it is the best vacation every year. Education is the most important aspect of coin collecting for me.

At the coin auction to benefit young numismatists they held that year in 1991 I spied an interesting looking piece, a misshapen coin with no writing on it, a cross on one side and a shield on the other side. I took it to the friendly ANA curator there, and asked him what it was. He looked it over and said "well..... in the early 1600s this was minted very roughly as a thing called a cob. The Spanish just wanted to churn these things out as quickly as possible ready for transport to another location or possibly to restrike into another coin. It was worth 8 reales, roughly an ounce of silver, struck in Mexico City. From there it travelled to Acapulco in southern Mexico then to the Philippines in an annual ship convoy or treasure fleet escorted by Spanish warships as protection against pirates and privateers. Shortly it was transported to China in exchange for silks and gemstones, where Chinese merchants put punch marks on to certify that it was the genuine thing. Then it was buried in a hoard, and unearthed in the 1920s".

I was astounded! How could you tell so much form such an unprepossessing object?! Then I was hooked. Numismatics became my hobby.

In this book I describe my US Commemorative coins. My family will have one more of many books to explain why I spent so much time on seemingly bizarre pursuits.

FOREWORD

The use of coins as a circulating medium of exchange has been in vogue for over two thousand years. We use coins almost daily without thinking much about their origin, designs, or usefulness other than they are a convenient way of making change and facilitating a purchase. In reality, the beginning of coins has been one of the most significant and useful innovations of all time. The wheels of commerce could not have function throughout the years without some mutually acceptable method of making payments to facilitate the exchange of goods and services. We owe a debt of gratitude to those fractional bits of wealth that are so often ignored in our pockets, dresser draws or cookie jars.

Take a closer look at one of your coins right now. Did you remember which United States president was shown on it? Did you ever stop to think why only deceased leaders are shown and not current presidents or famous people? And what is emblematic about the eagle on so many coins, or why only the current quarters have different designs honoring states, national parks and places of historic significance? If you haven't given thought to these things recently you should, and you most certainly will after reading the stimulating accounts given by the author of this book. His passion for exploring the background, history and significance of our country's coinage, especially the commemorative pieces that are the focus of his research and writing, will bring new meaning and significance to their symbolism.

Yes, there is lot that can be learned about our nation and history in general by simply taking notice of what is shown on the coins that we spend almost daily without giving them any thought. And beyond that it might be well to know that coins have long been, and often still are being used to influence our thinking in subtle, almost subliminal ways. To understand that more clearly, one must be reminded of the origin of coins being used as money, and how they carried messages that influenced the thinking of those who used them. In ancient times, long before newspapers or any expedient means of mass communications, coins were extensively used to spread messages far and wide. The designs were simple and easy to interpret by even the illiterate. They identified the current rulers, gods and goddesses, ongoing wars and victors, and whatever propaganda the issuing authority wanted to convey. Modern commemorative coins are similar in many ways in their role of recording art, history, geography and politics in an artistic form.

In reading this book you are about to embark on a journey through the history and meaning of a group of special commemorative coins made in the United States to honor persons, places and events dear to the hearts of Americans. I am sure you will find the author's descriptions and comments both educational and inspiring. Perhaps it will stimulate you to delve even further into the entertaining world of numismatics to discover for yourself the multitude of stories that exist for coins of all stripes from all ages, as well as for all countries. It is a pursuit that has unfortunately been ignored by far too many, and way too often.

What you are about to see is one man's journey into the fascinating world of numismatics. His passion for the subject is obvious, and likely infectious. His intent in writing this account is to inspire and pass on to his family some of the reasons he has dedicated part of his busy life to the study and collecting of these very special coins. His experience had its own flavor and direction as seems to be true of most of us who delve into the expansive world of numismatics. There are no set rules or boundaries to the way collectors enjoy the hobby. Each sets his or her own course and objectives. Each derives from the experience a sense of satisfaction, pleasure and achievement consistent with the amount of time and effort invested. Research has shown that having an absorbing hobby is not only a healthy pursuit but also fosters a happy long life. I would encourage all who read this book to look even further into the subject and discover for yourself the rich rewards of numismatic study.

Kenneth Bressett – June 2018
Fellow American Numismatic Society

DEDICATION

To my wife, Ann, who has patiently withheld my serial addictions to the demands of medical practice, magic, classical piano playing, MBA, flamenco guitar lessons, classical guitar playing, and all the way along numismatics and currency collecting.

To my three daughters, violinist Ashley, architect Rebecca, and photographer Alexandra, who have also put up with my same serial addictions with acceptance and sympathy.

To the ANA – an important organization that has fostered my lasting interest in financial history. Their emphasis on education serves the collector base well.

And a huge thank you to my good friend Chuck Bianchi who kindly agreed to mentor and edit this book.

Coins – history in your hands.

CHAPTER ONE

WHY DO WE COLLECT COINS AND CURRENCY?

If you are unfamiliar with coin collecting, before you start reading this book, please look in the glossary and see “parts of a coin” and “how coins are made”.

I wrote the following article in 2002, edited by David Q. Bowers, but the area still interests me so is reprinted here.

Food for Thought

Presumably, coin collectors love coins! But, why? What is so fascinating about those little round disks of metal? Here are some of my ideas—my observations regarding some of these questions as well as how these questions have been answered in the past.

Coin collectors are not common. Or are they? There are 12,000 registered dealers. David Bowers in one of his *Coin World* columns pointed out that approximately 250,000 people in the United States subscribe to numismatic periodicals, this amounting to just one person in a thousand. An editorial by Beth Deisher in the same newspaper estimated that there are 450,000 coin collectors in America, or about one in 600 people, a figure that seems to fit with Dave Bowers’ ideas. Heritage Auction Galleries also say they have 450,000 registered bidders on line. These serious collectors are part of a larger group of people, perhaps two to four million i.e. 1% of the population who buy current Bureau of the Mint products, purchase coins as novelties, or are otherwise interested in coins—but not as systematically. Even larger must be the number of citizens interested in putting a few statehood quarters, or Sacagawea dollars, or Kennedy half dollars away in a box or bureau drawer. The US mint claims they have 100,000,000 coin collectors.

Males Seeking Trophies

Why would anyone spend a part of his (usually) or her life in the quest for rare coins, sometimes traveling long distances and spending large sums of money to acquire them? Is coin collecting simply an acquired taste akin to the appreciation of single malt whiskeys, or is there something more visceral, more compelling, about the need to hold onto coins, catalog and admire them? Or, similar to what was said about the desire to climb Mount Everest, “because it is there,” coins are all around us, and they may invite acquisition?

Why are 95% of coin collectors male? With the exception of emblematic female heads perhaps 90% of heads of on coins of the world are male, reflecting *real people* and the dominant role that men have played in history. However, among American coins, especially those of the 18th and 19th centuries, before

presidents were widely depicted, most portraits are of “Miss Liberty.” It does not seem to make any particular sense that men like to collect female depictions of Liberty and male presidents, whereas women are not strongly interested in either. Perhaps coins are history in tangible form. Most well-known historians have been male. Are things historical, things of male interest? Not necessarily, for certain historical specialties, including art, film, and museum curatorship have had a generous number of women as participants.

Could the “thrill of the hunt” in numismatics be a factor—a modern continuation of the scene in which a caveman did the hunting while the cave-woman took care of the children? As the centuries went on, so the story goes, men earned a living to provide for the family, and women stayed at home to raise families. But today things have changed. Although in 1955 36% of women and 85% of men were employed, now the figures are 61% of women and 72% of men. Nevertheless, to take the traditional line, the male caveman hunter image has been updated. Nowadays men like power trappings, sports and trophies. In ancient times cavemen preferred ancient power trappings like animal trophies or spears. Today money still symbolizes power trappings and trophies. An 1804 dollar is a “trophy coin.” (The 1804 dollar is a great American rarity, only 15 exist, and they sell for millions of dollars). A “grand watermelon note” is a “trophy note”. This \$1,000 note had three large zeros on the back that looked like watermelons. Again only seven are known and sell for high prices.

Perhaps women are content with intangibles—art, music, romance, travel, and assets of the spirit and soul, while men find tangible items to be more rewarding. “The difference between a *man* and a *boy* is the price of his toys,” it has been said (italics added). Perhaps women do not need as many toys, cheap or expensive.

It may be relevant to mention that sculptor Elizabeth Jones was appointed chief engraver of the United States Mint in 1981. Ms. Jones’ 1982 George Washington commemorative is one of my favorite pieces of metallic sculpture.

Today, although many teenagers enjoy collecting statehood quarters, Lincoln cents, and other coins, most serious numismatists are apt to be on the long side of 50 years of age. It was not always so, and a century ago the average age of a new member of the American Numismatic Association was less than 40 years. It might be interesting to try to figure out why the great sports-card craze some years ago was dominated by youngsters from, say, eight years old through the teens, while people of all ages—from elementary school to past retirement age – follow the Yankees, Cardinals, and Red Sox, among other teams.

It seems that the deeper we dig; the more paradoxes we unearth!

Investors as a Factor

It has been estimated that 20% of numismatists are pure collectors and don't pay much attention to the market movements, 10% are pure investors, and the remainder are some mixture between collector and investor. These figures are taken from David Bowers' columns, "The Joys of Collecting" in *Coin World*, and point to the important fact that investment is an integral part of the numismatic hobby. However, Dave has pointed out, including in his current series about the coin market of the past generation that the percentage of investors is apt to increase or decrease sharply as markets change. In the "slow" market of the mid-1970s, investors were "rare," but by 1979 they dominated the market.

My own coin collecting interests illustrate this theme. A friend of mine had a coin collection 40 years ago which I asked to see. I remember a set of rather dark old copper large cents. I wondered why anyone could possibly be interested in such a bleak looking set of black disks and thought of it no more.

Of course coin collecting is a hobby rather than an investment. But still it is a store of value. This psychology of "a store of value" has been a very common theme for those who have been through the Depression. I remember an elderly chicken farmer in our local coin club who had been through the Depression and who would bid on every silver bullion item in every club auction. When he died, massive quantities of silver bullion were found buried under his chicken barn floorboards. This symbolized security for him.

A Glimpse of Psychology

In his book "Games People Play", Eric Berne developed a hypothesis called transactional analysis. Berne postulated that humans need to structure their time and need "stroking" physically or socially. To be "stroked" mentally or physically humans use four activities: pastimes, games, intimacy, and nonsocial activity. The last includes hobbies like going for walks, collecting, reading, and so on.

Abraham Maslow linked together existential philosophies and human psychology. He postulated a hierarchy of basic human needs common to all individuals, ranging from basic or essential, to those leading to enjoyment and enhancement of life. The hierarchy was:

1. Physiological needs such as food, water and shelter, these being basic for survival.
2. Security needs, including safety, security, and freedom from illness or threats, these providing comforts beyond existence.
3. Affiliation needs such sex, affection, relationships, and the feeling of belonging to something, all of which provide pleasures of life.
4. Esteem needs such as feelings of self-worth and achievement.
5. Self-actualization needs like self-fulfillment, finding a meaning to life, and transcendental change.

Coin or currency collecting fall in number five.

Another thought: Do coins furnish security and comfort in times of change? And, if so, do men demand tangible forms of security, such as coins, while, perhaps, women find their security in relationships with other people? More food for thought! Is collecting an escape mechanism from the everyday problems of the world? Can one have a *relationship* with one's coins or currency, or is the gathering of coins or currency simply a relaxing hobby?

Still another consideration: A "trophy coin" or "trophy note" is a badge of success and accomplishment, and, in the long run, somewhat easier to manage than casting aside family traditions for a new "trophy wife," the last being a popular pursuit of many successful men (again) in sports, politics, entertainment, and business. To buy a gem specimen of Rarity X incites admiration and, perhaps, even front-page coverage in *Coin World*!

Appropriate to the preceding is yet another psychological mechanism: identification. This is the unconscious transfer of outside character traits into one's own mind. Coin collecting may enable someone to emulate the rich guy. He can keep up with the Joneses, or indulge in the king of hobbies. He feels that, "If I do this I will feel like a well-heeled connoisseur." "The King of Egypt and the King of Italy collected coins, therefore I will collect coins too and I will feel like a king."

The various thoughts of Freud and others could be woven into the scenario to add more variables. Indeed, a *book* has been written about why people collect coins.

Coins and Their Prices

The concept of a coin collection as a store of value merits further discussion. Although there are many savvy female bankers, stock analysts, and financial planners, the world of money and Wall Street is dominated by males. Perhaps directly or subliminally they are driven to acquire a store of value, acorns for the winter, so to speak.

In contemplating investments, a coin collector has another world of opportunity beyond the usual stocks, bonds, Treasury bills, money market accounts, and other venues. More than just a few numismatists have realized investment returns on their collections that have outmatched what their friends have done in stocks and bonds. Some collectors approach investing and collecting with a method, such as having a certain percentage of investment funds in collectibles, a certain percent in cash, a certain percent in stocks, and so on. Wall Street firms often come up with such sets of figures.

However, the typical coin collector, once he or she learns the basics of buying, selling, and grading coins, tends to favor numismatics over just about everything else. There is a certain confidence factor in acquiring a coin of known rarity and traditional value. But fads must be avoided, as profits from fads in the coin market are usually temporary or illusory, just like buying "hot" stocks.

Not everyone wants to take the time to learn about the coin market, grading, and other factors. However, the lion's share of actual profits does go to such people, just as in the securities market those who are most successful base their purchases upon careful study.

Other Views of Collecting

One traditional explanation of why people collect coins has been that it is an acquired taste like wine, cigars, whiskey and fine art. An "acquired taste" means that the response to the area of interest depends on acquired rather than innate knowledge.

Another view has been that coin collecting includes aesthetics, history, geography, investment, art, finance, and has an angle for just about everybody. In the Victorian age and before, people seldom collected only coins. "Gentlemen" often collected in a number of areas, such as rocks and minerals, scientific instruments, biological specimens, and books. These collections reflected a level of inquisitiveness, curiosity and learning. Men would retire to the study after dinner over cigars and port and engage in exciting discussions on history, politics, the arts, and the latest science and theories. In the 1850s and 1860s Joseph J. Mickley, musical instrument repairer in Philadelphia and one of America's best-known numismatists, did this. On the other hand, in Baltimore in his palatial Evergreen House, in the 1880s T. Harrison Garrett seems to have enjoyed being alone with his coins and books.

Coin collecting is a clean, pleasurable hobby. There is voluminous literature about coins with perhaps more history and variety than many other collectables. Clubs, conventions, coin shows, the Internet, and particularly the ANA provides for great camaraderie amongst coin collectors. Coins are small, portable and valuable items of enduring value.

Joseph Campbell tells us that the ritual of passing objects from generation to generation is important. Rare coins or currency symbolize artifacts of value from previous generations, perhaps a way of holding on to our past. It is human nature to need ritual and to connect with our roots. Because we have little ritual in our current society, Campbell feels that contemporary religions may be outdated. It is our way of holding on to our past because we have no storytellers or elders to give us living proof of our roots. Objects from the past have become the story tellers.

Wayne Sayles in his book, *Ancient Coin Collecting*, says, "We are not the first to walk this path, nor will we be the last. The preserved records of the past are today's history...a visual link to the roots of our legal, moral and political systems and values.... Collecting is a natural human instinct." As to whether psychologists would include numismatics as a basic human instinct is a matter of debate, but it is interesting to contemplate, perhaps in connection with an ornithological study of why crows like to "collect" shiny objects to put in their

nests. Amazing, where such contemplations can lead!

I would like to conclude with a letter that I received from a numismatist friend who I invited over to look at my colonial coin collection. He later emailed me to say: "I cannot remember the last time I had such a fun evening. Most people just wouldn't understand....". For us nirvana, but others have trouble understanding such excitement about historical objects.

I have reviewed several explanations of why we collect coins. I must point out that not everything in life is simple. The reasons people collect coins are complex and vary from person to person. They are unlikely to be explained by a single metaphor. Have you identified with any of these explanations? Do you fit into any of these characterizations? If so, this could explain why you collect coins.

Perhaps, indeed, you collect coins and currency *because you want to*. No doubt there are many psychological, historical, financial, and other reasons, but the bottom line is probably *enjoyment*. Numismatics or currency collecting is a passion, and like many other passions of the heart and soul, it cannot be explained easily. And, perhaps therein lies its beauty.

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And, years of enjoyable real-life experience as a numismatist.

CHAPTER TWO

A BRIEF HISTORY OF COMMEMORATIVE COINS



The famed Demareteion. Photo courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group, Inc. Lancaster PA.

The first commemorative coin was from ancient Greece, specifically Syracuse in Sicily. It is called the Demareteion and is shown above. The occasion was when Gelon, a Greek cavalry commander, repelled the invading Carthaginians in 480 BCE. Gelon's wife was Demarete. She was instrumental in persuading Gelon to release Carthaginian prisoners. In gratitude, the Carthaginians sent Demarete an enormous quantity of gold. The commemorative coin was named after her.

The obverse (front) shows a charioteer with two horses. One can usually see a lion below an exergual line – interpreted perhaps as two horses trampling the Carthaginian lion. Nike, the god of victory, flies overhead crowning the horses (Go Syracuse!!!). The reverse (back) shows the nymph Arethusa surrounded by dolphins and the retrograde legend ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ (Syracuse). No one knows who engraved the Demareteion.

Normally the largest coins in ancient Greece were tetradrachms or four drachms, but Syracuse laid the foundation for using decadrachms (ten drachms) for commemorative coins. Even a tetradrachm was worth an enormous amount of

money in ancient Greece. Athens also made a decadrachm in 467 BCE celebrating the defeat of the Persians, in particular the defeat of the Persian fleet at Salamis in 480 BCE where the outnumbered Greeks sank 300 Persian ships, losing only 40 of their own. The image that follows is a copy of an Athenian decadrachm – the original would be in the \$300,000 - \$500,000 range!

One of the most beautiful commemorative coins in history was the 413 BCE Syracuse decadrachm thought to have been struck to celebrate the defeat of an Athenian expedition to Sicily in 413 BCE. The obverse shows a quadriga (chariot drawn by four horses), and the reverse shows the Nymph Arethusa surrounded by dolphins. This coin was engraved by the famous Greek engraver, Kimon.

Other commemorative decadrachms were struck in ancient times by Carthage, Egypt, and Akragas.



ATHENIAN DEKADRACHM COPY. ATHENA / OWL S₂₅₁₆; 35MM, 42.60 GRAMS UNC

756

467 BCE Athenian Decadrachm reproduction



KIMON SILVER DEKADRACHM COPY. QUADRIGA / ARETHUSA. S₉₅₂ COPY; 43.44 GRAMS, 35.5MM EF

649

413 BCE Kimon Syracuse Decadrachm reproduction



LYSIMACHOS, KING OF THRACE 323-281 BCE ? MINT POSTHUMOUS TETRADRACHM. ALEX GT/ATHENA S-6814 VAR; 29MM, 17.13 GRAMS AU

2729

Tetradrachm with Alexander the Great portrait wearing horn of Ammon

Commemorative coins in modern times mean special souvenir coins often sold at a premium over face value. But in history a commemorative coin simply commemorated a famous person or event. Coins like the 1976 quarter, half dollar and dollar commemorating the bicentennial of American independence circulating at face value are called circulating commemoratives. The State quarters, and National Parks quarters fall into this category too.

The Alexander the Great tetradrachm was thought to be the first time in history a realistic portrait appeared on a coin, and celebrated his many victories after his untimely death in 323 BCE.

Alexander the Great was born in 356 BCE. Aristotle educated him until the age of 16. When Alexander was 18 he led the Macedonian armies to Persia where he defeated King Darius III, then spent ten years conquering one area after another until he reached India. At that point his generals refused to go any further.

He returned, travelling to Egypt, founding several cities on the way usually called Alexandria. One of his common methods of winning was to take an elite detachment to attack the monarch or leader of an army, and then once overpowered, the entire army would yield.

One of his assimilation techniques was to have his Greek army soldiers marry locals, and stay and rule. Even as late as the 1920s there remained Greek speakers in Anatolia. In Northern Pakistan to this day there are still blue-eyed blond people to be found, descendants of Alexander the Great's army.

A truly brilliant General, he conquered vast territories. He died suddenly from either a fever, or from severe abdominal pain after downing a huge bowl of wine (possibly pancreatitis or poisoning with white hellebore [Veratrum album]).

His followers, called the diadochi (Greek for successors), were given command of various areas after his death. General Ptolemy was given Egypt; General Kassandra took over Macedonia (the homeland); General Antigonus Monophthalmos (one-eyed) established the Antigonid dynasty ruling Asia Minor and the Levant (this became part of Macedonia); General Seleukos took over the area that is now Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan; and General Lysimachus took over present day eastern Bulgaria.

Classic Commemorative Coins

To get back to US Classic Commemorative coins, they all have specific legal tender value unlike medals, thus reaching a wider audience than medals.

Kenneth Bressett points out that as America added new states, extra stars appeared on coins, which could be construed as a commemoration of sorts. Many point to the first US Commemorative coin as the CAL quarter eagle of 1848, when gold was discovered at Sutter's Mills California. A shipment of gold was made in 1848 and coins struck in the Philadelphia mint before the 49ers even got out there.

The first collectible commemorative coins were the Columbian Exposition half dollar and quarter dollar of 1892 and 1893. "Classic" Commemoratives were produced from 1892 to 1954, and modern commemoratives from 1982 to the present.

As Jeff Garrett says on the NGC (Numismatic Guarantee Corporation) internet site: "The "classic series" of United States commemorative coinage began in 1892 when 950,000 half dollars were distributed and sold to help finance the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Illinois. The World's Columbian Exposition was a seminal event for the United States. Our country was determined to outdo the French who had conducted a spectacular exposition a few years earlier. The Columbian World's Fair was a smashing success with nearly 26,000,000 visitors. This was at a time when the entire population of the United States stood at around 65,000,000.

Garrett continued: "Coins were struck to commemorate or raise funds for a wide variety of celebrations. A few of the latter issues were clearly produced for profit, with questionable ties to historic events. Quite a few were flops after being produced and many ended up in the melting pots. This latter category is now among the rarest and most desirable issues, including the Hudson and Spanish Trail Commemoratives". Most half dollars sold at issue for \$1 - \$2.

Other collectible coins with the Classic Commemorative Coin series

However, there are a number of other coins that can also be considered commemorative. They are the first circulating US coins with real heads on rather than allegorical heads. The first was the Lincoln cent in 1909. To this we should add the Jefferson nickel, the Roosevelt dime, the Washington quarter, the Franklin and Kennedy halves, the Peace and Eisenhower dollars, as well as the bicentennial 1776-1976 commemorative quarter, half dollar and dollar.

The silver classic commemoratives comprise 50 coins, the gold classic commemoratives comprise 10 coins, the above federal issues 12 coins, and just one more is the Norse American medal struck at the Philadelphia mint in 1925. The total is 72 coins and one medal which I will discuss in this book. The commonest designers of these are Charles Barber, Laura Gardin Fraser and John Sinnock.

But three of these coins: the \$50 gold Panama Pacific both round and octagonal, and the 1848 CAL quarter eagle, are all in the \$30,000 to \$100,000 range so could be labelled as NC (non-collectible). The term NC was first used by the Early American Coppers club (EAC) and discussed by William Sheldon in his book "*Penny Whimsy*" in 1958. The implication was that there were so few available, or that they were so prohibitively expensive that a collection could be considered complete even without them. Thus I will deal with 70 collectible coins.

The end of the Classical Commemorative Coins era

In the *Encyclopedia of United States Silver and Gold Commemorative Coins 1892 to 1954*, Breen states:

"During 1934-36, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the House Banking and Currency Committee were more tolerant of commemorative issues than ever before or since, such choices as the Huguenot-Walloon (which was unconstitutional because of its sectarian character, the Pioneer Memorial statue in Elgin, Illinois, the Village of Hudson, New York, or the fictitious "Cincinnati Musical Center" (were accepted).

“When a commemorative coin is approved by both houses of Congress and becomes law...the next step is for the commission sponsoring the local celebration... to make recommendations to the Bureau of the Mint for designs...Once in hand, the coins are the property of the commission, which markets them at a figure generally dependent on the quantity authorized to be minted.... profits accruing to the commission count as fund-raising for the benefit of their local celebration. Usually particular coin dealers have either been chosen by the commissions, or have offered to buy up unsold residues (at lower figures) after the celebration is over... (after the) abuses - Boone, Arkansas, Oregon and Texas, on August 5, 1939, an act was passed that prohibited further production or issue of commemorative coins authorized prior to March 1, 1939”.

For unknown reasons, President Truman decided to override objections to commemorative issues...he would approve both the Iowa Statehood and Booker T. Washington commemorative half dollars.

However, on September 21, 1951, Congress passed a second act on behalf of S.J. Phillips, the promoter of the Booker T. Washington coins, enabling him to obtain the balance of his authorized coins...as the Washington/Carver half dollars”. It was disgust with S.J. Phillips that finally killed commemoratives.

The “GuideBook of United States Coins Deluxe Edition” 2015 states in reference to the Arkansas Centennial half dollar that “the coin’s four-year life span was intended to maximize profits, and sluggish sales contributed to the crash of the commemorative market and subsequent suspension of commemorative coinage in 1939 which lasted until 1946”. The final coin of the series the Carver/Washington commemorative half dollar is perhaps the least attractive of the entire series.

Unfortunately, classical commemorative coins became a feeding frenzy for promoters who saw dollar signs rather than noble signs. Classic commemorative coins for example did not commemorate the First or Second World Wars, the civil rights of 1950s and 1960s, neither were Edison, Gershwin, Jonas Salk, or the Wright brothers commemorated.

In the 1930s, according to Anthony Swiatek in his 2001 book *Commemorative Coins of the United States* “critics started complaining that commemoratives were issued for occasions of questionable importance and that Congress was approving them only because of the sponsor’s political clout.”

Modern Commemorative Coins

The modern commemorative coin era started in 1982 with Elizabeth Jones, US Mint engraver’s Washington piece – a really beautiful coin. More recently perhaps starting around 1980 modern commemoratives around the world were re-labelled as NCLT (Non-Circulating Legal Tender) i.e. collectors paid premiums for modern coins because although they had legal tender status, they actually did not circulate because they were made primarily for the collector market usually as commemorative or artistic or historic series.

As of the 2018 Red Book there are 262 modern commemorative coins which include a lot of gold coins making this an expensive area to collect. In addition, the subject matter is often not particularly historic e.g. the world soccer cup in 1994 generated 4 coins. Many collectors have stopped collecting these modern commemoratives because the US Mint milks them for multiple issues e.g. the 1996 Olympiad had 32 coins – twelve uncirculated dollars, twelve proof dollars, four uncirculated gold half eagles, and four proof gold half eagles, totaling \$6,742 in the 2018 Red Book – obviously too much to pay for regular subscribers to US Mint products.

Why collect classic commemorative coins?

Generally, but not always, classic commemorative coins are more artistic and more historic than modern commemorative coins, and certainly more so than federal coinage – the focus of collecting for the majority of US coin collectors. Other factors come to mind for example history in your hands, enduring value, patriotism, diversity etc.

The most beautiful of the series according to the Society of US Commemorative Coin Collectors in a 1985 survey was the Oregon Trail half dollar. The three rarest are the 1928 Hawaii, the 1935 Hudson, and the 1935 Old Spanish Trail half dollars.

Anthony Swiatek in his 2001 book “*Commemorative Coins of the United States*”, points out that classic commemorative coins are “remembrance preservers.... vignettes from America’s past.... snapshots from our national photo album”.

Many classic commemorative coin collectors also collect original holders, brochures, mailing envelopes, boxes, and other memorabilia associated with the coins.

Ways of collecting Classical Commemorative Coins

How to classify these coins is a problem. Some describe them alphabetically; some describe them chronologically. Certainly the series does not represent anything like the most famous or significant people, events in history, commerce or industry. It is really a hodge-podge of what the American Congress legislated after pressure from all sorts of groups, many of which were pet projects.

The traditional classification is as follows:

1. 15 states
2. 13 cities
3. 6 expositions
4. 4 people
5. 4 civil war
6. 8 miscellaneous

However, this classification misses some of the obvious e.g. the Lexington Concord commemorative was not really a city commemorative but an historical event. Thus I have reclassified them into the following classification:

1. 10 Cities (the Lexington-Concord commemorative half dollar was notable as the beginning of the Revolutionary War not as a city)
2. 3 Civil War (Grant is primarily about Grant not about the Civil War)
3. 5 Expositions (I consider Lafayette under "People", though the coin actually commemorates his statue at the Paris Exposition)
4. 13 Historical
5. 5 People
6. 13 States (actually Texas was honored for its independence rather than as a state, nevertheless I include it as a state commemorative)

There are any number of ways of collecting this series:

1. 50 silver type coins of the series
2. 8 gold type coins of the series
3. Topical e.g. cities, civil war, expositions, historical, people and states.
4. 12 inexpensive AU coins under \$100: Columbus, Pilgrim, Monroe, Lexington-Concord, Stone Mountain, Sesquicentennial, California-Pacific, Cleveland, Long Island Tercentenary, Iowa Centennial, Booker T. Washington, Carver/Washington
5. Entire series by date and mintmark – 144 silver coins

Financial issues

As previously mentioned the \$50 gold Panama Pacific both round and octagonal, and the 1848 CAL quarter eagle, are all in the over \$30,000 range so a collector should feel comfortable forming a complete collection without these coins. The peak of the collector market for Classic Commemorative Coins was 1989. It has never really recovered. So it seems a ripe area for collecting. As Jeff Garrett on the NGC (Numismatic Guarantee Corporation) internet site says: "In the summer of 1989, an NGC MS 65 1892 Columbian Half Dollar sold for \$5,000. Today, an attractive example can be found for about \$350".

Garrett continues with several compelling reasons to collect classic commemorative silver coins:

- 1 Prices are near all-time lows for most issues. There has never been a better time to consider this series. For anyone looking for a contrarian play in numismatics, this is it. Commemoratives are today extremely cheap.
- 2 Completing a set of commemoratives by type is within the means of many collectors. There are no real stoppers, with most available for less than \$500 in Gem condition. The most expensive issue is the 1928 Hawaiian Half Dollar, and these can be purchased for around \$3,500 in Gem condition.
- 3 Classic Commemorative silver coins are among the most beautiful coins ever produced by the United States government. There are a few that lack artistic merit, but most are very attractive and were designed by renowned sculptors of the day.
- 4 A majority of the issues can be purchased in Gem (MS 65) for prices that are not greatly above the cost of a circulated specimen, an example being the 1936 Delaware that sells for about \$200 in AU and \$275 in MS 65.
- 5 There is a tremendous amount of literature available for anyone interested in collecting the series. Classic Commemorative coins are among the most studied United States coin series. Each coin has a story behind it.

Remainder of the book

The Bowers Encyclopedia lays out the coins chronologically; the Swiatek and Breen Encyclopedia lays them out alphabetically. As I am primarily interested in the history behind the coin rather than investment, I shall deal with the 70 short stories under a heading of subjects dealt with i.e.:

1. 10 Cities (Lexington-Concord was beginning of Revolution not city)
2. 3 Civil War (Grant is primarily about Grant not the Civil War)
3. 5 Expositions (Lafayette is reclassified from Exposition to People)
4. 13 Historical
5. 5 People
6. 13 States (Texas was being honored for its independence not as a state)
7. Gold only commemoratives
8. Others (circulating issue first year commemorating a person or event)

References:

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Yeoman, R.S., Bressett, K. *A Guidebook of United States Coins, Deluxe Edition* 2015. Whitman Publishing LLC, Atlanta GA 30329, USA

<https://www.ngccoin.com/news/article/5488/silver-commemorative-coins/>

Numismatic Guarantee Corp website on Commemorative Coins

Charts of the Classic Commemorative Series that follow.

Please note that certified or "slabbed" coins are listed to give some idea of the surviving numbers. Because of re-submissions of slabs to try to get a better grade, the MS 64 and 65 coins can probably be lowered by perhaps 25%. On the other hand, many coins exist that have never been slabbed by grading services.

The figures for certified coins are taken from the 2015 Mega Red Guidebook of United States Coins. A check for example on the Bridgeport coin: NGC in December 2017 have graded 3,117 coins, whereas the Guidebook says 3,035 are certified. However, PCGS have graded 6,301. Thus the combined population is 9,418, so the figures I give are from the 2015 Mega Red Guidebook of United States Coins and are presumably for NGC graded coins only in 2015.

David Hall on the PCGS site says 25,015 Bridgeport coins were released, and he estimates the survival is 21,000. Thus taking the Bridgeport commemorative half dollar as an example the figures for estimated coins are as follows:
Example of surviving numbers for Bridgeport Commemorative \$ half.

	Number	Percent
Coin released:	25,015	100%
Estimated surviving	21,000	84%
Certified by PCGS and NGC	9,418	38%
Reduction for multiple submissions	8,035	32%

Naturally the figures will be different for different coins. For example, a lot of Columbian halves were spent in change, so that there are a lot of circulated ones around that no one is going to bother sending to the grading services.

CLASSIC SILVER COMMEMORATIVE COINS BY SUBJECT

CC #	Coin	Date(s)	Mint	Distribution	Certified	Proofs	Obverse	Reverse	Obverse engraver	Reverse Engraver	Subject	Notes
CC 39	Albany, NY Charter \$1/2	1936	P	17,671	2,902	0	Beaver gnawing on maple branch	NY Gov Dongan give charter to Schuyler & Livingstone	Gertrude K. Lathrop	Gertrude K. Lathrop	Cities	
CC 36	Bridgeport, CT Centennial \$1/2	1936	P	25,015	3,035	0	P.T.Barnum	Art deco eagle standing	Henry Kreiss	Henry Kreiss	Cities	
CC 33	Cincinnati Music Center \$1/2	1936	P,D,S	15,016	2,930	0	Stephen Foster America's Troubadour	Allegory of music	Constance Ort Mayer	Constance Ort Mayer	Cities	Abusive commem pushed by numismatist Thomas G. Melish
CC 31	Cleveland Cent Gt Lakes Expo \$1/2	1936	P	50,030	4,738	0	Moses Cleaveland	Great Lakes map w/ stars showing 9 cities	Brenda Putnam	Brenda Putnam	Cities	For Great lakes Exposition but celebrates Cleveland founding
CC 41	Columbia, SC Sesquicentennial \$1/2	1936	P	25,023	4,662	0	Justice allegory before State Capitol of 1936	Palmetto tree & stars, state emblem	A. Wolfe Davidson	A. Wolfe Davidson	Cities	
CC 38	Elgin, IL Centennial \$1/2	1936	P	20,015	3,227	0	Pioneer	Pioneer memorial statuary group	Trygve Rovelstad	Trygve Rovelstad	Cities	
CC 27	Hudson, NY, Sesquicentennial \$1/2	1935	P	10,008	1,959	0	Ship Half Moon	Sea God Neptune on whale on Hudson seal	Chester Beach	Chester Beach	Cities	Distributed to dealers for \$1 or less, and prices pumped up
CC 37	Lynchburg, VA Sesquicentennial \$1/2	1936	P	20,013	2,587	0	Sen. Carter Glass	Standing Lib & old Lynchburg courthouse	Charles Keck	Charles Keck	Cities	
CC 47	New Rochelle, NY 250th Anniv \$1/2	1938	P	15,266	2,523	1 to 2	John Pell with fatted calf	Fleur-de-lis adapted from city seal	Gertrude K. Lathrop	Gertrude K. Lathrop	Cities	
CC 44	Norfolk, VA Bicentennial \$1/2	1936	P	16,936	2,731	0	Norfolk City seal with ship	Norfolk's Royal mace	Wm&Marjorie Simpson	Wm&Marjorie Simpson	Cities	
CC 46	Antietam Battle 75th Anniv \$1/2	1937	P	18,028	2,649	0	Conjoined Gens Robert Lee & George McClellan	Burnside Bridge tactical battle objective	William M. Simpson	William M. Simpson	Civil War	
CC 43	Battle of Gettysburg 75th Anniv \$1/2	1936	P	26,928	3,287	0	Coinjoined heads Union & Confederate soldier	Union & Confed shields, fasces between	Frank Vittor	Frank Vittor	Civil War	
CC 14	Stone Mountain Memorial \$1/2	1925	P	1,314,709	7,867	0	Robert E Lee & Stonewall Jackson horseback	Midspread-winged eagle on cliff	Gutzon Borglum	Gutzon Borglum	Civil War	
CC 28	California-Pacific Exposition \$1/2	1935-1936	D,S	100,224	7,356	0	Minerva with grizzly bear and shield	St.FrancisChapel&CA tower at Cal-Pac Expo	Robert Aitken	Robert Aitken	Expositions	1935 S; 1936 D Held in San Diego
CC 1	Columbian Exposition \$1/2	1892-1893	P	2,450,405	11,329	103-105	Christopher Columbus	Ship Santa Maria	Charles E. Barber	George Morgan	Expositions	100 1892 proofs, 3-5 1893 proofs
CC 2	Columbian Exposition Isabella \$1/4	1893	P	24,214	3,659	100-105	Queen Isabella of Spain	Allegory of Industry of American Women	Charles E. Barber	Charles E. Barber	Expositions	
CC 4	Panama-Pacific Exposition \$1/2	1915	S	27,134	2,740	0	Columbia scattering flowers, bounty of west	Spread-winged eagle on shield	Charles E. Barber	George T. Morgan	Expositions	
CC 17	Sesquicentennial Independence \$1/2	1926	P	141,120	4,366	0	Conjoined G Washington & Calvin Coolidge	Liberty bell	John R. Sinnock	John R. Sinnock	Expositions	
CC 16	Fort Vancouver Centennial \$1/2	1925	S	14,994	2,236	2 to 3	John McLoughlin	Pioneer in buckskin with musket	Laura Gardin Fraser	Laura Gardin Fraser	Historical	
CC 20	Hawaii Sesquicentennial \$1/2	1928	P	10,008	1,696	50	Capt. James Cook	Hawaiian chieftain with spear	Juliette M Fraser	Juliette M Fraser	Historical	Rarest."Sandblast Proof = excessively dipped in acid i.e. fake.
CC 12	Hugenot-Walloon Tercentenary \$1/2	1924	P	142,080	3,250	0	Adm. Gaspard de Coligny & Prince Wm Silent	Ship Nieuw Nederland	George T. Morgan	George T. Morgan	Historical	
CC 13	Lexington-Concord Sesquicent \$1/2	1925	P	162,013	4,064	0	Minuteman statue by Daniel Chester French	Lexington's Old Belfry	Chester Beach	Chester Beach	Historical	
CC 34	Long Island Tercentenary \$1/2	1936	P	81,826	4,377	0	Conjoined Dutch settler and Algonquin Indian	Ship Dutch unnamed	Howard K. Weinman	Howard K. Weinman	Historical	
CC 11	Monroe Doctrine Centennial \$1/2	1923	S	274,077	3,632	0	Conjoined James Monroe & John Q Adams	North & South America as women	Chester Beach	Chester Beach	Historical	
CC 29	Old Spanish Trail \$1/2	1935	P	10,008	1,812	0	Skull of steer	Yucca tree over a map of trail	L.W. Hofferker	L.W. Hofferker	Historical	L.W. Hofferker was also distributor & exploiter of commems
CC 18	Oregon Trail Memorial \$1/2	1926-1939	PDS	203,102	19,987	1 to 2	Pioneer family in Conestoga west into sun	Standing Indian w/ bow US map	James & Laurin Fraser	James & Laurin Fraser	Historical	1928 P&S; 1928 P; 1933&4 D; 1936 P&S; 1937 D; 1938&9 PDS
CC 7	Pilgrim Tercentenary \$1/2	1920-1	P	172,165	6,716	0	Governor William Bradford with Bible	Ship Mayflower	Cyrus E. Dallin	Cyrus E. Dallin	Historical	Distrib 152,112 1920; 20,053 1921 with added date
CC 45	Roanoke Island, NC 350th Anniv \$1/2	1937	P	29,030	3,837	0	Sir Walter Raleigh	Eleanor Dare with baby Virginia, 1st Am child	William M. Simpson	William M. Simpson	Historical	
CC 40	SF-Oakland Bay Bridge opening \$1/2	1936	S	71,424	3,633	0	Grizzly bear facing on all fours	SF-Oakland Bay Bridge	Jacques Schnier	Jacques Schnier	Historical	
CC 22	Texas Independence Centennial \$1/2	1934-38	P,D,S	149,661	17,478	0	Eagle over loan star (Indep 1836, State 1845)	Victory allegory kneeling Houston & Austin	Pompeo Coppini	Pompeo Coppini	Historical	Issued as 1934, 1935PDS, 1936PDS, 1937PDS, 1938PDS
CC 19	Vermont Sesquicentennial \$1/2	1927	P	28,142	3,056	0	Ira Allen	Catamount walking left	Charles Keck	Charles Keck	Historical	150thAnniv Battle of Bennington Rev War 1777
CC 35	York County, ME Tercentenary \$1/2	1936	P	25,015	3,400	0	Brown's garrison on Saco River, York County	Adaptation of York County seal	Walter H. Rich	Walter H. Rich	Historical	Numismatist Walter Nichols handled well somewhat obscure
CC 49	Booker T. Washington Memorial \$1/2	1946-1951	P,D,S	1,609,041	18,918	0	Booker T. Washington	Hall of fame NY University, slave cabin	Isaac S. Hathaway	Isaac S. Hathaway	People	
CC 50	Carver/Washington \$1/2	1951-1954	P,D,S	1,333,192	12,257	0	Coinjoined GW Carver & B.T. Washington	US map with legends	Isaac S. Hathaway	Isaac S. Hathaway	People	
CC 23	Daniel Boone Bicentennial \$1/2	1934-1938	P,D,S	87,187	13,124	0	Daniel Boone	Daniel Boone & Shawnee Chief Blackfish	Augustus Lukeman	Augustus Lukeman	People	1934P; 1935 PDS (lg & sm1934); 1936,7 & 8 PDS
CC 10	Grant Memorial \$1/2	1922	P	71,661	4,804	0	Ulysses S Grant	Grant's birth house Point Pleasant, Ohio	Laura Gardin Fraser	Laura Gardin Fraser	People	only 25% of certified are incuse star variety
CC 3	Lafayette Dollar	1900	P	11,329	2,531	0	Conjoined Washington & Lafayette	Lafayette equestrian statue	Charles E. Barber	Charles E. Barber	People	DuVall types1A,1B,1C,2C,3D,4E. To erect statue in Paris Expo
CC 9	Alabama Centennial \$1/2	1921	P	22,020	3,635	0	Conjoined William Bibb & Thomas Kilby	Eagle on shield from Alabama state seal	Laura Gardin Fraser	Laura Gardin Fraser	States	
CC 25	Arkansas Centennial \$1/2	1935-1939	P,D,S	85,301	10,761	1-2 catr	Eagle and parts of Arkansas State seal	Liberty w/Phrygian cap, 1836 Indian Chief	Edward E. Burr	Edward E. Burr	States	1935,6,7,8,9, PDS sets. Sluggish sales stopped Commem 1939
CC 26	Arkansas Centennial/Robinson \$1/2	1936	P,D,S	25,265	2,637	0	Eagle and parts of Arkansas State seal	Senator Joseph T. Robinson	Edward E. Burr	Henry Kreiss	States	Living head on US coin
CC 15	California Diamond Jubilee \$1/2	1925	S	86,594	4,144	1 to 2	Miner panning for gold	Grizzly bear from California Stqate flag	Jo Mora	Jo Mora	States	
CC 24	Connecticut Tercentenary \$1/2	1935	P	25,018	3,459	1 to 2	Modernistic standing eagle	Charter Oak tree	Henry Kreiss	Henry Kreiss	States	
CC 42	Delaware Tercentenary \$1/2	1936	P	20,993	2,911	0	Old Swedes church	Ship Kalmar Nyckel	Carl L. Schmitz	Carl L. Schmitz	States	
CC 5	Illinois Centennial \$1/2	1918	P	100,058	4,210	0	Beardless Abraham Lincoln	Eagle on crag from Illinois state seal	George T. Morgan	John R. Sinnock	States	
CC 48	Iowa Centennial \$1/2	1946	P	100,057	5,848	0	Iowa City old State Capitol Building	Spread Wing eagle from Iowa state seal	Adam Pietz	Adam Pietz	States	
CC 6	Maine Centennial \$1/2	1920	P	50,028	2,877	0	State of Maine Arms	MAINE CENTENNIAL	Anthony de Francisci	Anthony de Francisci	States	
CC 21	Maryland Tercentennial \$1/2	1934	P	25,015	3,392	2 to 4	Cecile Calvert, Lord Baltimore	State seal & motto of Maryland	Hans Schuler	Hans Schuler	States	
CC 8	Missouri Centennial \$1/2	1921	P	20,800	3,650	1 to 2	Coonskin-capped frontiersman	Frontiersman and Indian looking west	Robert Aitken	Robert Aitken	States	
CC 30	Providence, RI Tercentenary \$1/2	1936	P,D,S	50,034	5,632	0	Indian welcomes Roger Williams	RI state shield elements	Arthur G Carey	Arthur G Carey	States	
CC 32	Wisconsin Territorial Centennial \$1/2	1936	P	25,015	3,848	0	Badger on log	Miner's arm holding pickaxe over lead ore	David Parsons	David Parsons	States	

CLASSIC SILVER COMMEMORATIVE COINS ALPHABETIC

CC #	Coin	Date(s)	Mint	Distribution	Certified	Proofs	Obverse	Reverse	Obverse engraver	Reverse Engraver	Subject	Notes
CC 9	Alabama Centennial \$1/2	1921	P	22,020	3,635	0	Conjoined William Bibb & Thomas Kilby	Eagle on shield from Alabama state seal	Laura Gardin Fraser	Laura Gardin Fraser	States	
CC 39	Albany, NY Charter \$1/2	1936	P	17,671	2,902	0	Beaver gnawing on maple branch	NY Gov Dongan give charter to Schuyler&Livingstone	Gertrude K. Lathrop	Gertrude K. Lathrop	Cities	
CC 46	Antietam Battle 75th Anniv \$1/2	1937	P	18,028	2,649	0	Conjoined Gens Robert Lee&George McClellan	Burnside Bridge tactical battle objective	William M. Simpson	William M. Simpson	Civil War	
CC 25	Arkansas Centennial \$1/2	1935-1939	P,D,S	85,301	10,761	1 - 2 sets	Eagle and parts of Arkansas State seal	Liberty w/Phrygian cap, 1836 Indian Chief	Edward E. Burr	Edward E. Burr	States	1935,6,7,8,9, PDS sets. Sluggish sales stopped Commem 1939
CC 26	Arkansas Centennial/Robinson \$1/2	1936	P,D,S	25,265	2,637	0	Eagle and parts of Arkansas State seal	Senator Joseph T. Robinson	Edward E. Burr	Henry Kreiss	States	Living head on US coin
CC 43	Battle of Gettysburg 75th Anniv \$1/2	1936	P	26,928	3,287	0	Coinjoined heads Union & Confederate soldier	Union & Confed shields, fasces between	Frank Vittor	Frank Vittor	Civil War	
CC 49	Booker T. Washington Memorial \$1/2	1946-1951	P,D,S	1,609,041	18,918	0	Booker T. Washington	Hall of fame NY University, slave cabin	Isaac S. Hathaway	Isaac S. Hathaway	People	
CC 36	Bridgeport, CT Centennial \$1/2	1936	P	25,015	3,035	0	P.T.Barnum	Art deco eagle standing	Henry Kreiss	Henry Kreiss	Cities	
CC 15	California Diamond Jubilee \$1/2	1925	S	86,594	4,144	1 to 2	Miner panning for gold	Grizzly bear from California State flag	Jo Mora	Jo Mora	States	
CC 28	California-Pacific Exposition \$1/2	1935-1936	D,S	100,224	7,356	0	Minerva with grizzly bear and shield	St.FrancisChapel&CA tower at Cal-Pac Expo	Robert Altken	Robert Altken	Expositions	1935 S; 1936 D Held in San Diego
CC 50	Carver/Washington \$1/2	1951-1954	P,D,S	1,333,192	12,257	0	Coinjoined GW Carver & B.T. Washington	US map with legends	Isaac S. Hathaway	Isaac S. Hathaway	People	
CC 33	Cincinnati Music Center \$1/2	1936	P,D,S	15,016	2,930	0	Stephen Foster America's Troubadour	Allegory of music	Constance Ort Mayer	Constance Ort Mayer	Cities	Abusive commem pushed by numismatist Thomas G. Melish
CC 31	Cleveland Cent Gt Lakes Expo \$1/2	1936	P	50,030	4,738	0	Moses Cleaveland	Great Lakes map w/ stars showing 9 cities	Brenda Putnam	Brenda Putnam	Cities	For Great lakes Exposition but celebrates Cleveland founding
CC 41	Columbia, SC Sesquicentennial \$1/2	1936	P	25,023	4,662	0	Justice allegory befor State Capitol of 1936	Palmetto tree & stars, state emblem	A. Wolfe Davidson	A. Wolfe Davidson	Cities	
CC 1	Columbian Exposition \$1/2	1892-1893	P	2,450,405	11,329	103-105	Christopher Columbus	Ship Santa Maria	Charles E. Barber	George Morgan	Expositions	100 1892 proofs, 3-5 1893 proofs
CC 2	Columbian Exposition Isabella \$1/4	1893	P	24,214	3,659	100-105	Queen Isabella of Spain	Allegory of Industry of American Women	Charles E. Barber	Charles E. Barber	Expositions	
CC 24	Connecticut Tercentenary \$1/2	1935	P	25,018	3,459	1 to 2	Modernistic standing eagle	Charter Oak tree	Henry Kreiss	Henry Kreiss	States	
CC 23	Daniel Boone Bicentennial \$1/2	1934-1938	P,D,S	87,187	13,124	0	Daniel Boone	Daniel Boone & Shawnee Chief Blackfish	Augustus Lukeman	Augustus Lukeman	People	1934P; 1935 PDS (lg & sml1934); 1936,7 & 8 PDS
CC 42	Delaware Tercentenary \$1/2	1936	P	20,993	2,911	0	Old Swedes church	Ship Kalmar Nyckel	Carl L. Schmitz	Carl L. Schmitz	States	
CC 38	Elgin, IL Centennial \$1/2	1936	P	20,015	3,227	0	Pioneer	Pioneer memorial statuary group	Trygve Rovelstad	Trygve Rovelstad	Cities	
CC 16	Fort Vancouver Centennial \$1/2	1925	S	14,994	2,236	2 to 3	John McLoughlin	Pioneer in buckskin with musket	Laura Gardin Fraser	Laura Gardin Fraser	Historical	
CC 10	Grant Memorial \$1/2	1922	P	71,661	4,804	0	Ulysses S Grant	Grant's birth house Point Pleasant, Ohio	Laura Gardin Fraser	Laura Gardin Fraser	People	only 25% of certified are incuse star variety
CC 20	Hawaii Sesquicentennial \$1/2	1928	P	10,008	1,696	50	Capt James Cook	Hawaiian chieftain with spear	Juliette M Fraser	Juliette M Fraser	Historical	Rarest: "Sandblast Proof = excessively dipped in acid i.e. fake.
CC 27	Hudson, NY, Sesquicentennial \$1/2	1935	P	10,008	1,959	0	Ship Half Moon	Sea God Neptune on whale on Hudson seal	Chester Beach	Chester Beach	Cities	Distributed to dealers for \$1 or less, and prices pumped up
CC 12	Hugenot - Walloon Tercentenary \$1/2	1924	P	142,080	3,250	0	Adm. Gaspard de Coligny & Prince Wm Silent	Ship Nieuw Nederland	George T. Morgan	George T. Morgan	Historical	
CC 5	Illinois Centennial \$1/2	1918	P	100,050	4,210	0	Beardless Abraham Lincoln	Eagle on crag from Illinois state seal	George T. Morgan	John R. Sinnock	States	
CC 4B	Iowa Centennial \$1/2	1946	P	100,057	5,848	0	Iowa City old State Capitol Building	Spread Wing eagle from Iowa state seal	Adam Pietz	Adam Pietz	States	
CC 3	Lafayette Dollar	1900	P	11,329	2,531	0	Conjoined Washington & Lafayette	Lafayette equestrian statue	Charles E. Barber	Charles E. Barber	People	DuVall types1A,1B,1C,2C,3D,4E. To erect statue in Paris Expo
CC 13	Lexington-Concord Sesquicent \$1/2	1925	P	162,013	4,064	0	Minuteman statue by Daniel Chester French	Lexington's Old Belfry	Chester Beach	Chester Beach	Historical	
CC 34	Long Island Tercentenary \$1/2	1936	P	81,826	4,377	0	Conjoined Dutch settler and Algonquin Indian	Ship Dutch unnamed	Howard K. Weinman	Howard K. Weinman	Historical	
CC 37	Lynchburg, VA Sesquicentennial \$1/2	1936	P	20,013	2,587	0	Sen. Carter Glass	Standing Lib & old Lynchburg courthouse	Charles Keck	Charles Keck	Cities	
CC 6	Maine Centennial \$1/2	1920	P	50,028	2,877	0	State of Maine Arms	MAINE CENTENNIAL	Anthony de Francisci	Anthony de Francisci	States	
CC 21	Maryland Tercentennial \$1/2	1934	P	25,015	3,392	2 to 4	Cecile Calvert, Lord Baltimore	State seal & motto of Maryland	Hans Schuler	Hans Schuler	States	
CC 8	Missouri Centennial \$1/2	1921	P	20,800	3,650	1 to 2	Coonskin-capped frontiersman	Frontiersman and Indian looking west	Robert Altken	Robert Altken	States	
CC 11	Monroe Doctrine Centennial \$1/2	1923	S	274,077	3,632	0	Conjoined James Monroe & John Q Adams	North & South America as women	Chester Beach	Chester Beach	Historical	
CC 47	New Rochelle, NY 250th Anniv \$1/2	1938	P	15,266	2,523	1 to 2	John Pell with fatted calf	Fleur-de-lys adapted from city seal	Gertrude K. Lathrop	Gertrude K. Lathrop	Cities	
CC 44	Norfolk, VA Bicentennial \$1/2	1936	P	16,936	2,731	0	Norfolk City seal with ship	Norfolk's Royal mace	Wm&Marjorie Simpson	Wm&Marjorie Simpson	Cities	
CC 29	Old Spanish Trail \$1/2	1935	P	10,008	1,812	0	Skull of steer	Yacca tree over a map of trail	L.W. Hoffecker	L.W. Hoffecker	Historical	L.W. Hoffecker was also distributor & exploiter of commems
CC 18	Oregon Trail Memorial \$1/2	1926-1939	PDS	203,102	19,987	1 to 2	Pioneer family in Conestoga west into sun	Standing Indian w/ bow US map	James & Laurin Fraser	James & Laurin Fraser	Historical	1928 P&S; 1928 P; 1933&4 D; 1936 P&S; 1937 D; 1938&9 PDS
CC 4	Panama-Pacific Exposition \$1/2	1915	S	27,134	2,740	0	Columbia scattering flowers, bounty of west	Spread-winged eagle on shield	Charles E. Barber	George T. Morgan	Expositions	
CC 7	Pilgrim Tercentenary \$1/2	1920-1	P	172,165	6,716	0	Governor William Bradford with Bible	Ship Mayflower	Cyrus E. Dallin	Cyrus E. Dallin	Historical	Distrib 152,112 1920; 20,053 1921 with added date
CC 30	Providence, RI Tercentenary \$1/2	1936	P,D,S	50,034	5,632	0	Indian welcomes Roger Williams	RI state shield elements	Arthur G Carey	Arthur G Carey	States	
CC 45	Roanoke Island, NC 350th Anniv \$1/2	1937	P	29,030	3,837	0	Sir Walter Raleigh	Eleanor Dare with baby Virginia, 1st Am child	William M. Simpson	William M. Simpson	Historical	
CC 17	Sesquicentennial Independence \$1/2	1926	P	141,120	4,366	0	Conjoined G Washington & Calvin Coolidge	Liberty bell	John R. Sinnock	John R. Sinnock	Expositions	
CC 40	SF-Oakland Bay Bridge opening \$1/2	1936	S	71,424	3,633	0	Grizzly bear facing on all fours	SF-Oakland Bay Bridge	Jacques Schnier	Jacques Schnier	Historical	
CC 14	Stone Mountain Memorial \$1/2	1925	P	1,314,709	7,867	0	Robert E Lee & Stonewall Jackson horseback	Midspread-winged eagle on cliff	Gutzon Borglum	Gutzon Borglum	Civil War	
CC 22	Texas Independence Centennial \$1/2	1934-38	P,D,S	149,661	17,478	0	Eagle over loan star (indep 1836, State 1845)	Victory allegory kneeling Houston&Austin	Pompeo Coppini	Pompeo Coppini	Historical	Issued as 1934, 1935PDS, 1936PDS, 1937PDS, 1938PDS
CC 19	Vermont Sesquicentennial \$1/2	1927	P	28,142	3,056	0	Ira Allen	Catamount walking left	Charles Keck	Charles Keck	Historical	150thAnniv Battle of Bennington Rev War 1777
CC 32	Wisconsin Territorial Centennial \$1/2	1936	P	25,015	3,848	0	Badger on log	Miner's arm holding pickaxe over lead ore	David Parsons	David Parsons	States	
CC 35	York County, ME Tercentenary \$1/2	1936	P	25,015	3,400	0	Brown's garrison on Saco River, York County	Adaptation of York County seal	Walter H. Rich	Walter H. Rich	Historical	Numismatist Walter Nichols handled well somewhat obscure

CLASSIC SILVER COMMEMORATIVE COINS BY DATE

CC #	Coin	Date(s)	Mint	Distribution	Certified	Proofs	Obverse	Reverse	Obverse engraver	Reverse Engraver	Subject	Notes
CC 1	Columbian Exposition \$1/2	1892-1893	P	2,450,405	11,329	103-105	Christopher Columbus	Ship Santa Maria	Charles E. Barber	George Morgan	Expositions	100 1892 proofs, 3-5 1893 proofs
CC 2	Columbian Exposition Isabella \$1/4	1893	P	24,214	3,659	100-105	Queen Isabella of Spain	Allegory of Industry of American Women	Charles E. Barber	Charles E. Barber	Expositions	
CC 3	Lafayette Dollar	1900	P	11,329	2,531	0	Conjoined Washington & Lafayette	Lafayette equestrian statue	Charles E. Barber	Charles E. Barber	People	DuVall types 1A, 1B, 1C, 2C, 3D, 4E. To erect statue in Paris Expo
CC 4	Panama-Pacific Exposition \$1/2	1915	S	27,134	2,740	0	Columbia scattering flowers, bounty of west	Spread-winged eagle on shield	Charles E. Barber	George T. Morgan	Expositions	
CC 5	Illinois Centennial \$1/2	1918	P	100,058	4,210	0	Beardless Abraham Lincoln	Eagle on crag from Illinois state seal	George T. Morgan	John R. Sinnock	States	
CC 6	Maine Centennial \$1/2	1920	P	50,028	2,877	0	State of Maine Arms	MAINE CENTENNIAL	Anthony de Francisci	Anthony de Francisci	States	
CC 7	Pilgrim Tercentenary \$1/2	1920-1	P	172,165	6,716	0	Governor William Bradford with Bible	Ship Mayflower	Cyrus E. Dallin	Cyrus E. Dallin	Historical	Distrib 152,112 1920; 20,053 1921 with added date
CC 8	Missouri Centennial \$1/2	1921	P	20,800	3,650	1 to 2	Coonskin-capped frontiersman	Frontiersman and Indian looking west	Robert Aitken	Robert Aitken	States	
CC 9	Alabama Centennial \$1/2	1921	P	22,020	3,635	0	Conjoined William Bibb & Thomas Kilby	Eagle on shield from Alabama state seal	Laura Gardin Fraser	Laura Gardin Fraser	States	
CC 10	Grant Memorial \$1/2	1922	P	71,661	4,804	0	Ulysses S Grant	Grant's birth house Point Pleasant, Ohio	Laura Gardin Fraser	Laura Gardin Fraser	People	only 25% of certified are incuse star variety
CC 11	Monroe Doctrine Centennial \$1/2	1923	S	274,077	3,632	0	Conjoined James Monroe & John Q Adams	North & South America as women	Chester Beach	Chester Beach	Historical	
CC 12	Hugenot - Walloon Tercentenary \$1/2	1924	P	142,080	3,250	0	Adm. Gaspard de Coligny & Prince Wm Silent	Ship Nieuw Nederland	George T. Morgan	George T. Morgan	Historical	
CC 13	Lexington-Concord Sesquicentennial \$1/2	1925	P	162,013	4,064	0	Minuteman statue by Daniel Chester French	Lexington's Old Belfry	Chester Beach	Chester Beach	Historical	
CC 14	Stone Mountain Memorial \$1/2	1925	P	1,314,707	7,867	0	Robert E Lee & Stonewall Jackson horseback	Midspread-winged eagle on cliff	Gutzon Borglum	Gutzon Borglum	Civil War	
CC 15	California Diamond Jubilee \$1/2	1925	S	86,594	4,144	1 to 2	Miner panning for gold	Grizzly bear from California State flag	Jo Mora	Jo Mora	States	
CC 16	Fort Vancouver Centennial \$1/2	1925	S	14,994	2,236	2 to 3	John McLoughlin	Pioneer in buckskin with musket	Laura Gardin Fraser	Laura Gardin Fraser	Historical	
CC 17	Sesquicentennial Independence \$1/2	1926	P	141,120	4,366	0	Conjoined G Washington & Calvin Coolidge	Liberty bell	John R. Sinnock	John R. Sinnock	Expositions	
CC 18	Oregon Trail Memorial \$1/2	1926-1939	PDS	203,102	19,987	1 to 2	Pioneer family in Conestoga west into sun	Standing Indian w/ bow US map	James & Laurin Fraser	James & Laurin Fraser	Historical	1928 P&S; 1928 P; 1933&4 D; 1936 P&S; 1937 D; 1938&9 PDS
CC 19	Vermont Sesquicentennial \$1/2	1927	P	28,142	3,056	0	Ira Allen	Catamount walking left	Charles Keck	Charles Keck	Historical	150th Anniv Battle of Bennington Rev War 1777
CC 20	Hawaii Sesquicentennial \$1/2	1928	P	10,008	1,696	50	Capt James Cook	Hawaiian chieftain with spear	Juliette M Fraser	Juliette M Fraser	Historical	Rarest."Sandblast Proof = excessively dipped in acid i.e. fake.
CC 21	Maryland Tercentenary \$1/2	1934	P	25,015	3,392	2 to 4	Cecile Calvert, Lord Baltimore	State seal & motto of Maryland	Hans Schuler	Hans Schuler	States	
CC 22	Texas Independence Centennial \$1/2	1934-38	P,D,S	149,661	17,478	0	Eagle over loan star (indep 1836, State 1845)	Victory allegory kneeling Houston&Austin	Pompeo Coppini	Pompeo Coppini	Historical	Issued as 1934, 1935 PDS, 1936 PDS, 1937 PDS, 1938 PDS
CC 23	Daniel Boone Bicentennial \$1/2	1934-1938	P,D,S	87,187	13,124	0	Daniel Boone	Daniel Boone & Shawnee Chief Blackfish	Augustus Lukeman	Augustus Lukeman	People	1934P; 1935 PDS (lg & sm1934); 1936,7 & 8 PDS
CC 24	Connecticut Tercentenary \$1/2	1935	P	25,018	3,459	1 to 2	Modernistic standing eagle	Charter Oak tree	Henry Kreiss	Henry Kreiss	States	
CC 25	Arkansas Centennial \$1/2	1935-1939	P,D,S	85,301	10,761	1 - 2 sets	Eagle and parts of Arkansas State seal	Liberty w/Phrygian cap, 1836 Indian Chief	Edward E. Burr	Edward E. Burr	States	1935,6,7,8,9, PDS sets. Sluggish sales stopped Comms 1939
CC 26	Arkansas Centennial/Robinson \$1/2	1936	P,D,S	25,265	2,637	0	Eagle and parts of Arkansas State seal	Senator Joseph T. Robinson	Edward E. Burr	Henry Kreiss	States	Living head on US coin
CC 27	Hudson, NY, Sesquicentennial \$1/2	1935	P	10,008	1,959	0	Ship Half Moon	Sea God Neptune on whale on Hudson seal	Chester Beach	Chester Beach	Cities	Distributed to dealers for \$1 or less, and prices pumped up
CC 28	California-Pacific Exposition \$1/2	1935-1936	D,S	100,224	7,356	0	Minerva with grizzly bear and shield	St.FrancisChapel&CA tower at Cal-Pac Expo	Robert Aitken	Robert Aitken	Expositions	1935 S; 1936 D Held in San Diego
CC 29	Old Spanish Trail \$1/2	1935	P	10,008	1,812	0	Skull of steer	Yacca tree over a map of trail	L.W. Hofecker	L.W. Hofecker	Historical	L.W. Hofecker was also distributor & exploiter of comems
CC 30	Providence, RI Tercentenary \$1/2	1936	P,D,S	50,034	5,632	0	Indian welcomes Roger Williams	RI state shield elements	Arthur G Carey	Arthur G Carey	States	
CC 31	Cleveland Cent Gt Lakes Expo \$1/2	1936	P	50,030	4,738	0	Moses Cleaveland	Great Lakes map w/ stars showing 9 cities	Brenda Putnam	Brenda Putnam	Cities	For Great lakes Exposition but celebrates Cleveland founding
CC 32	Wisconsin Territorial Centennial \$1/2	1936	P	25,015	3,848	0	Badger on log	Miner's arm holding pickaxe over lead ore	David Parsons	David Parsons	States	
CC 33	Cincinnati Music Center \$1/2	1936	P,D,S	15,016	2,930	0	Stephen Foster America's Troubadour	Allegory of music	Constance Ortmyer	Constance Ortmyer	Cities	Abusive commem pushed by numismatist Thomas G. Melish
CC 34	Long Island Tercentenary \$1/2	1936	P	81,826	4,377	0	Conjoined Dutch settler and Algonquin Indian	Ship Dutch unnamed	Howard K. Weinman	Howard K. Weinman	Historical	
CC 35	York County, ME Tercentenary \$1/2	1936	P	25,015	3,400	0	Brown's garrison on Saco River, York County	Adaptation of York County seal	Walter H. Rich	Walter H. Rich	Historical	Numismatist Walter Nichols handled well somewhat obscure
CC 36	Bridgeport, CT Centennial \$1/2	1936	P	25,015	3,035	0	P.T. Barnum	Art deco eagle standing	Henry Kreiss	Henry Kreiss	Cities	
CC 37	Lynchburg, VA Sesquicentennial \$1/2	1936	P	20,013	2,587	0	Sen. Carter Glass	Standing Lib & old Lynchburg courthouse	Charles Keck	Charles Keck	Cities	
CC 38	Elgin, IL Centennial \$1/2	1936	P	20,015	3,227	0	Pioneer	Pioneer memorial statuary group	Trygve Rovelstad	Trygve Rovelstad	Cities	
CC 39	Albany, NY Charter \$1/2	1936	P	17,671	2,902	0	Beaver gnawing on maple branch	NY Gov Dongan give charter to Schuyler&Livingstone	Gertrude K. Lathrop	Gertrude K. Lathrop	Cities	
CC 40	SF-Oakland Bay Bridge opening \$1/2	1936	S	71,424	3,633	0	Grizzly bear facing on all fours	SF-Oakland Bay Bridge	Jacques Schnier	Jacques Schnier	Historical	
CC 41	Columbia, SC Sesquicentennial \$1/2	1936	P	25,023	4,662	0	Justice allegory before State Capitol of 1936	Palmetto tree & stars, state emblem	A. Wolfe Davidson	A. Wolfe Davidson	Cities	
CC 42	Delaware Tercentenary \$1/2	1936	P	20,993	2,911	0	Old Swedes church	Ship Kalmar Nyckel	Carl L. Schmitz	Carl L. Schmitz	States	
CC 43	Battle of Gettysburg 75th Anniv \$1/2	1936	P	26,928	3,287	0	Coinjoined heads Union & Confederate soldier	Union & Confed shields, fasces between	Frank Vittor	Frank Vittor	Civil War	
CC 44	Norfolk, VA Bicentennial \$1/2	1936	P	16,936	2,731	0	Norfolk City seal with ship	Norfolk's Royal mace	Wm&Marjorie Simpson	Wm&Marjorie Simpson	Cities	
CC 45	Roanoke Island, NC 350th Anniv \$1/2	1937	P	29,030	3,837	0	Sir Walter Raleigh	Eleanor Dare with baby Virginia, 1st Am child	William M. Simpson	William M. Simpson	Historical	
CC 46	Antietam Battle 75th Anniv \$1/2	1937	P	18,028	2,649	0	Coinjoined Gens Robert Lee & George McClellan	Burnside Bridge tactical battle objective	William M. Simpson	William M. Simpson	Civil War	
CC 47	New Rochelle, NY 250th Anniv \$1/2	1938	P	15,266	2,523	1 to 2	John Pell with fatted calf	Fleur-de-lis adapted from city seal	Gertrude K. Lathrop	Gertrude K. Lathrop	Cities	
CC 48	Iowa Centennial \$1/2	1946	P	100,057	5,848	0	Iowa City old State Capitol Building	Spread Wing eagle from Iowa state seal	Adam Pietz	Adam Pietz	States	
CC 49	Booker T. Washington Memorial \$1/2	1946-1951	P,D,S	1,609,041	18,918	0	Booker T. Washington	Hall of fame NY University, slave cabin	Isaac S. Hathaway	Isaac S. Hathaway	People	
CC 50	Carver/Washington \$1/2	1951-1954	P,D,S	1,333,192	12,257	0	Coinjoined GW Carver & B.T. Washington	US map with legends	Isaac S. Hathaway	Isaac S. Hathaway	People	

CLASSIC GOLD COMMEMORATIVE COINS

CC #	Coin 2	Date(s)	MINT	Distribution	Certified	Proofs	Obverse	Reverse	Obverse engraver	Column1	Obverse Engraver	Notes
CC G1	Louisiana Purchase Exposition Jefferson	1903	P	17,500	2,256	100	Jefferson	ONE DOLLAR	Charles E. Barber	Charles E. Barber	Expositions	George T. Morgan assisted
CC G2	Louisiana Purchase Exposition McKinley	1903	P	17,500	2,116	100	McKinley	ONE DOLLAR	Charles E. Barber	Charles E. Barber	Expositions	George T. Morgan assisted
CC G3	Lewis & Clark Exposition Gold Dollar	1904-5	P	20,066	2,650	2 to 3	Meriwether Lewis	William Clark	Charles E. Barber	Charles E. Barber	Expositions	
CC G4	Panama-Pacific Exposition Gold Dollar	1915	S	15,000	3,748	0	Panama Canal laborer	ONE DOLLAR	Charles Keck	Charles Keck	Expositions	
CC G5	Panama-Pacific Exposition Quarter Eagle	1915	S	2,032	2,032	1	Columbia on hippocampus with caduceus	Eagle on plaque with raised wings	Charles E. Barber	George T. Morgan	Expositions	
CC G6	Panama-Pacific Exposition \$50 Gold Round	1915	S	483	418	0	Helmetted Minerva with shield	Owl symbolizing wisdom	Robert Aitken	Robert Aitken	Expositions	To expensive to collect
CC G7	Panama-Pacific Exposition \$50 Gold Octagonal	1915	S	645	456	0	Helmetted Minerva with shield	Owl symbolizing wisdom	Robert Aitken	Robert Aitken	Expositions	To expensive to collect
CC G8	McKinley Memorial Gold Dollar	1916-1917	P	20,000	4,094	3 to 6	William McKinley	Proposed McKinley birthplace Memorial	Charles E. Barber	George T. Morgan	People	Distribution 15,000 1916, 5,000 1917
CC G9	Grant memorial Gold dollar	1922	P	10,032	10,032	0	Ulysses S. Grant	Grant's birth house Point Pleasant, Ohio	Laura Gardin Fraser	Laura Gardin Fraser	People	50% of certified are star variety
CC G10	Sesquicentennial Independence Quarter Eagle	1926	P	46,019	7,727	1	Liberty holding Dec Ind&Torch of Freedom	Independence Hall Philadelphia	John R. Sinnock	John R. Sinnock	Expositions	

OTHER COMMEMORATIVE COINS

CC #	Coin	Date(s)	Mint	Distribution	Certified	Proofs	Obverse	Reverse	Obverse engraver	Reverse Engraver	Category	
CC Alt 1	1848 CAL Quarter Eagle	1848	P	6,500		0	Liberty Head	Spread-winged eagle CAL incuse above	Christian Gobrecht	Christian Gobrecht	Circulating	In \$30,000-\$100,000 range too expensive to collect
CC Alt 2	Norse-American Medal	1925		39,750		0	Viking warrior	Vling Long ship	James Earle Fraser	James Earle Fraser	Historical	Gold (\$3); thick (33,750) & thin (6,000) silver; bronze (70)
CC Alt 3	Lincoln Cent 1909 VDB	1909	P,S	27,995,000		2,618	Lincoln	ONE CENT wheat ears	Victor D. Brenner	Victor D. Brenner	Circulating	100th Anniv of Lincoln's birth, many with VDB. S VDP pricey
CC Alt 4	Peace Dollar 1921	1921	P	1,006,473		0	Radiant liberty	Perched eagle on crag	Anthony de Francisci	Anthony de Francisci	Circulating	High relief, belated celebration of end of 1st World War
CC Alt 5	Washington Quarter 1932	1932	P,D,S	6,248,800		0	Washington	Facing spread-winged eagle on fasces	John Flanagan	John Flanagan	Circulating	Bicentennial of birth of George Washington
CC Alt 6	Jefferson Nickel 1938	1938	P,D,S	28,977,000		19,365	Jefferson	Monticello	Felix Schlag	Felix Schlag	Circulating	1938 was not anniversary year for Jefferson
CC Alt 7	Roosevelt Dime 1946	1946	P,D,S	344,193,500		0	Franklin D. Roosevelt	Torch between oak and laurel sprigs	John R. Sinnock	John R. Sinnock	Circulating	FDR founded march of dimes for polio, died 1945
CC Alt 8	Franklin Half 1948	1948	P,D	7,035,414		0	Franklin	Liberty bell	John R. Sinnock	John R. Sinnock	Circulating	1948 does not celebrate any specific date for Franklin
CC Alt 9	Kennedy Half 1964	1964	P,D	429,509,450		3,950,762	Kennedy	Presidential seal	Frank Gasparro	Frank Gasparro	Circulating	year after Kennedy's assassination, last year for pure silver
CC Alt 10	Eisenhower Dollar 1971	1971	P,D,S	123,254,954		4,265,234	Eisenhower	Eagle landing on moon	Frank Gasparro	Frank Gasparro	Circulating	Honors President Eisenhower and Apollo 11 landing on moon
CC Alt 11	Bicentennial Quarter 1776-1976	1976	P,D,S	1,680,902,855		11,059,099	Washington	Military drummer & victory torch	John Flanagan	Jack L. Ahr	Circulating	Declaration of Independence Bicentennial date 1776-1976
CC Alt 12	Bicentennial Half 1776-1976	1976	P,D,S	532,873,248		11,059,099	Kennedy	Independence Hall, Philadelphia	Frank Gasparro	Gilroy Roberts and Seth Huntington	Circulating	Declaration of Independence Bicentennial date 1776-1976
CC Alt 13	Bicentennial Dollar 1776-1976	1976	P,D,S	231,565,274		19,149,730	Eisenhower	Liberty bell superimposed on moon	Frank Gasparro	Dennis R. Williams	Circulating	Declaration of Independence Bicentennial date 1776-1976



250TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALBANY CITY CHARTER COMMEM \$1/2 BEAVER/3 MEN 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS PCGS MS 64

1336

CHAPTER THREE

TEN CITIES COMMEMORATED.

Background.

The Albany issue celebrates the 250th Anniversary of the Charter of the City of Albany New York. The sculptress was Miss Gertrude K. Lathrop of Albany, who came from a family of female artists. Her mother, Ida, painted landscapes and still life. Her sister, Dorothy, was a writer and illustrator of children's books. Gertrude studied with Gutzon Borglum at the Art Students League in New York City in 1918, and at his School of American Sculpture from 1920 to 1921. She had her first show at the National Academy of Design in 1921. Her prime interest was in sculpting animals. She moved from Albany to Falls Village, Connecticut in 1954 with her sister, where she died in 1986.

For this coin Lathrop studied the history of the era and period costume at the New York Historical Society and Smithsonian. She identified the beaver side of the coin as the obverse. The New York State Conservation Department even arranged for a live beaver to be in her studio for a number of days! Lathrop also sculpted the New Rochelle half dollar commemorative.



Maple keys taken from our garden

The coin.

The obverse shows a beaver gnawing on a maple sprig (maple is the New York State tree). The devices between UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and HALF DOLLAR are "maple keys" also called "helicopters" or "whirlybirds" i.e. two seeds attached to wings to disperse the seeds. We live in Connecticut and have maple trees in our back yard and the helicopters are a familiar sight as they whirl, falling to the ground at some distance from the tree and litter the yard. Lathrop chose them as symbolic of growth and fertility for the early Albany. Beavers were extremely plentiful then in the Albany area, and the community's wealth came from them. The beaver is still used in their city seal.

The reverse shows the colonial New York Governor, Sir Thomas Dongan, on the left, shaking hands with Pieter Schuyler (later Albany's first mayor) who holds the Albany charter, with Robert Livingston behind him. They were leaving New York city after two weeks of negotiating to get a charter, which Dongan signed July 22nd, 1686. Livingston is described in many texts as "Secretary". However, at the time he was Schuyler's brother-in-law, and into politics and business. It is true he was later secretary of Indian affairs, but not at the time.



Major towns and the Hudson River in New York State

Albany.

Albany was first settled in 1614, long before the Pilgrims came to Plymouth in 1620. When Albany applied for a charter in 1686, the population was around 500. Albany, the capital of New York State, is on the Hudson River just south of the Adirondacks. The Hudson River now connects with Lake Champlain by a 60-mile canal, constructed at the same time as the Erie Canal, which connected Lake Erie at Buffalo to the Hudson River at Albany. The canal was over 363

miles long. Although Northern Lake Champlain is only around 10 miles from the St. Lawrence River, no canal has ever been built between the lake and the St. Lawrence because of the expense.

Albany is said to be the second oldest chartered city in the US today. Plymouth, Massachusetts is said to be the oldest. However, this statement is at odds with the fact that New York City received their charter 3 months before Albany. The other possibility is that people are talking about continuous charters. Albany says they have the oldest continuing charter. Whatever, this brings up the subject of forms of town government.

There are several forms of town government in US at present. The idea of a charter in the 1600s was left over from medieval times. It was a legal document which established that people who lived in the chartered town or city were burghers as opposed to serfs in medieval times i.e. the citizen's freedom was protected by the king. The charter also established a city constitution which governed the city rather than the State code for "General law cities". So at the time it was an important event, though now somewhat less so.

Current forms of city government in the US are:

Council-Manager (55% in 2006). The city council oversees general administration policy and budget. The council appoints the city manager with CEO duties. Often rotating mayors are chosen from the council.

Mayor-Council (34%). The mayor is elected from the council full-time and paid as CEO. The city charter determines mayoral power. The council is elected and has legislative powers.

Town Meeting (5%). All voters meet to decide policy and elect officials to carry out those policies.

Commission (<1%). Voters elect commissioners to the governing board. Each commissioner is responsible for fire, police, public works, finance etc., and one of the commissioners is designated mayor who presides at meeting.

Representative Town Meeting (<1%). Voters select many representatives for town meetings. Each meeting advertises the topic and date. Only selectmen representatives can vote.

So, who were these three men on the coin reverse? Behind Schuyler on the reverse is Robert Livingston the Elder (1654-1728). He immigrated to Boston in 1673 aged 19 after his father died. He then set up a trading venture in Albany. In 1675, he became secretary to Nicholas Van Renssalaer. Livingston married Alida Schuyler the sister of Pieter Schuyler. She was also the widow of Nicholas Van Renssalaer. In 1686, Livingston and his brother-in-law, Pieter Schuyler, persuaded New York Governor Thomas Dongan to grant Albany a charter, just like New York City had been granted three months before.

Livingston became the city and county clerk for Albany and Secretary of Indian Affairs from 1695 to 1728. After obtaining a patent for 160,000 acres along the Hudson River he used the land for work camps for German Palatine refugees producing timber, turpentine etc. to pay off their voyages. Doing this Livingston amassed one of the largest fortunes in the 17th Century in North America. He used politics as a networking tool for business. George W. Bush, Eleanor Roosevelt and the Astor family were all descendants of his. John Jacob Astor (1763-1848), another New Yorker later made his fortune also in the beaver fur trade and in real estate in New York City.



Robert Livingston



Pieter Schuyler

Pieter Schuyler (1657-1724), on the right of the coin's reverse, was one of ten children of Philip Pieterse Schuyler, a Dutch born land owner, who emigrated to North America, around 1650 to enter the fur trade. Schuyler was appointed Lieutenant in the Albany militia (he eventually rose to Colonel – the highest rank allowed for locals). In 1686 he was made the first mayor in Albany.

Schuyler's first wife died after the birth of their fourth child in 1689, and he remarried, this time into the Van Renssalaer family, taking Maria Van Renssalaer as his wife. His daughter also married Robert Livingston Jr. Pieter was also Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and three times was acting Governor of New York under British rule. Schuyler's sister, Alida, married Robert Livingston. The New York State aristocracy were all intermarried back then.



Colonel Thomas Dongan

New York was named after the Duke of York (later James II of England) who took New Amsterdam in 1664. After the second Anglo-Dutch war of 1665 to 1667, under the treaty of Breda, the Dutch agreed to give England Manhattan, in exchange for the spice island of Run, the only place in the world at the time where nutmeg was grown. Nutmeg was then worth more than its weight in gold! At the time (but not now!) it was probably a good deal for the Dutch.

Thomas Dongan (pronounced “Dungan”) lived from 1634 to 1715. His family had been Roman Catholic supporters of English King Charles I (1625-1649), and after the restoration of the English Monarchy, Dongan became a Colonel in King Charles II’s army. In 1682 he was appointed Governor of the province of New York, replacing Edmund Andros.

In 1683, Dongan convened the first ever representative assembly in New York, which passed the “Charter of Liberties” Act, making the assembly co-equal with the British parliament establishing independent courts, religious liberty, suffrage, no martial law, no quartering of soldiers without consent etc. In 1688 he transferred his governorship back to Andros. He was knighted, then in 1698 his brother, the Earl of Limerick, died without any living successors. Sir Thomas then became the second Earl of Limerick. He lived the last few years of his life in London.

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BRIDGEPORT CENTENNIAL 1936 COMMEM \$1/2. BARNUM/EAGLE. 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS ANACS MS 63

274

Ten Cities – CC 36 Bridgeport

Centennial \$½ - more about P T Barnum than Bridgeport

The coin

The Bridgeport coin's design shows Phineas Taylor Barnum facing left, and the legend BRIDGEPORT CENTENNIAL and the dates 1836-1936. On the reverse is a modernistic eagle with raised wings on a ledge. B. Max Mehl, a famous coin promoter of the era, said if inverted it resembles a shark with an open mouth, tongue and two dorsal fins. All the usual phrases required by the bureaucratic US Congress were crowded onto the reverse. E Pluribus Unum, In God We Trust, Liberty, United States of America and the denomination. That, unfortunately, is required of every coin.



The inverted Bridgeport coin looking like a shark

Introducing the coin.

The coin was designed by Henry G. Kreiss, who also engraved the Connecticut commemorative half dollar and the Robinson reverse of the Arkansas commemorative half dollar. The design was considered poor because of the large featureless eagle wings, as well as the face of P T Barnum, both of which attract marks.

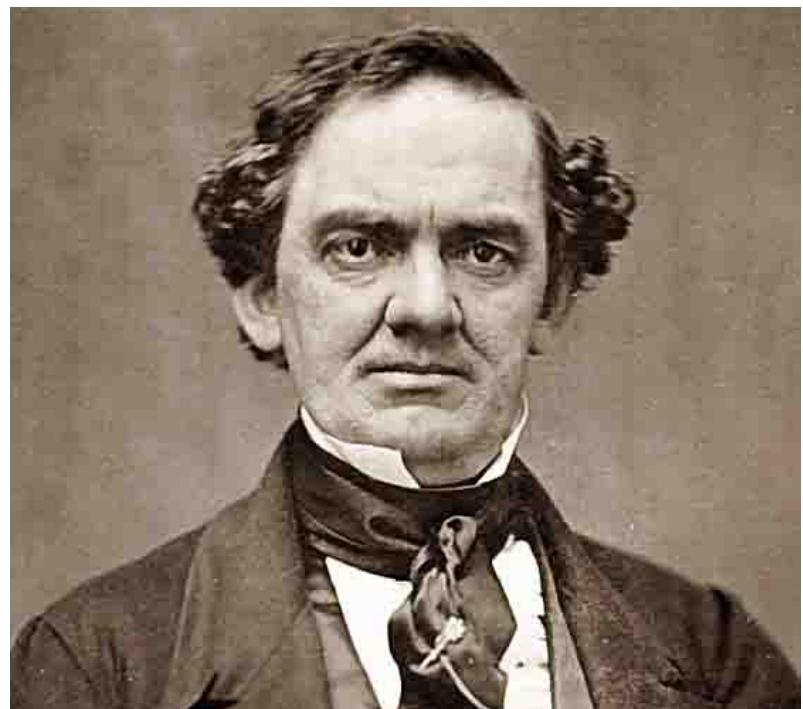
P.T. Barnum.

The coin is more about P T Barnum than it is about Bridgeport. He lived from 1810 to 1891. He was a showman, promoter, impresario, businessman, philanthropist, publisher and irrepressible entrepreneur. He was the 19th century equivalent of Walt Disney – the entertainer of the era.

Bridgeport was founded in 1639, but incorporated in 1836. Bridgeport Centennial Inc. decided in 1936 they wanted to honor primarily P T Barnum, their favorite citizen. They arranged celebrations to start on June 4th, 1936, and to continue until October 3rd – a four-month period. The distribution of the coins started on Sept 1st – a month before they closed! Such are the vicissitudes of Congress!

The quotes attributed to P T Barnum need explanation. He never said “A sucker is born every minute”. It was a banker David Hannum, talking about Barnum’s replica of the Cardiff Giant, one of Barnum’s hoaxes. However, one quote that is true is: “I don’t care much what the newspapers say about me as long as they will say something”. This replicated the Hollywood philosophy: “any publicity is good publicity”.

As a child Barnum sold snacks and home-made cherry brandy to troops. By the age of 12 he had enough money to buy livestock. By the time he was 19 he had a store, where he learnt salesmanship and haggling, and developed an auction company selling books, a state wide lottery business and also speculated in real estate.



P. T. Barnum

At the age of 19 he started a newspaper called "The Herald of Freedom", which was against blue laws and church elders, and landed him briefly in jail for two months. But he emerged from jail still a liberal.

Remains Monday the 14th
Joice Heth, "Washington's nurse"



"Feejee" the mermaid

When Barnum was 24 the State of Connecticut banned lotteries, so he sold his store and lottery business and moved to New York City. The next year he bought a blind African American woman slave named Joice Heth whom he promoted as George Washington's nurse. Her age was a bit of a stretch – 161, but that was no problem for PT Barnum! He further fueled his promotion by suggesting that she was actually an automaton controlled by a ventriloquist. He toured New England with her, making \$1,500 a week! Shortly, she died and he invited the public to her post mortem exam where it was said she was no more than 80 years old!

In 1841, at the age of 31, Barnum bought Scudders American Museum in New York City, renaming it Barnum's American Museum. He added a light house lamp, roof flags, giant paintings of animals, a strolling garden on the roof, and hot air balloon rides. He also added human curiosities – "freaks", and live and stuffed animals. In addition, he exhibited the first aquarium in America.

His next hoax, in 1842, was "Feejee" or the South Seas Mermaid, which he leased from fellow museum owner Mose Kimball of Boston. Actually the mermaid was the top half of a monkey sewn to the bottom half of a fish!



Barnum's American Museum in New York City

In 1842, Barnum met a very small child, Charles Stratton, aged four. He was likely a pituitary dwarf measuring 2'2", with normal sized parents and siblings. Barnum promoted him as an eleven-year-old, teaching him how to imitate people, how to dance, and so forth, even persuading him to drink wine at the age of five and smoke cigars at the age of seven. Barnum gave him the name General Tom Thumb. When Stratton was six, in 1844, Barnum took him on a European tour, where he met Queen Victoria. This was great publicity for General Tom Thumb. On his eighteenth birthday Stratton was still only 2' 8 1/2". Stratton became very wealthy under Barnum's tutelage, owning a fashionable house in New York City, a specially adapted home on one of the "Thimble Islands", and a steam yacht.

In 1846, Barnum bought Peale's Museum in Philadelphia, the first US museum. By 1846 400,000 visitors a year visited his museum. At around that time Barnum attended a lecture by a temperance advocate, and became a teetotaler.

During Barnum's European tour he heard of Jenny Lind, who had a crystal clear, wistful voice which audiences loved. He booked her at \$1,000 a night for 150 nights. Lind demanded her \$150,000 up front because, as a philanthropist she wanted to give away the money as quickly as possible. Barnum obliged her by mortgaging his home and his museum and getting other financing. When Lind arrived in 1850 Barnum had prepared well, - 40,000 people greeted her off the boat. Lind reckoned she could get more from him and re-negotiated a percentage fee on top. Barnum at that time had up to 26 journalists on his payroll for publicity for Lind. But one year later Lind backed out of the deal and toured on her own. She had given Barnum 93 concerts; Barnum had paid her \$350,000. But he netted \$500,000!



Charles Stratton (General Tom Thumb) marrying Lavinia Warren in 1863

Barnum realigned the public's conception of theater, which was considered "evil" at that time. He built a large theater which he called the "Moral Lecture Room", with matinees, opening with a play called "The Drunkard" which was really a temperance lecture.



Jenny Lind – The Swedish Nightingale

In 1853, he wrote his autobiography called "Struggles and Triumphs". Of course he could make money from it, but he also realized the power of promotion and allowed anyone to publish it. Nevertheless, he constantly updated and edited it. Indeed, it was a #2 best seller after the New Testament in America. At the time it sold 1 million copies. Mark Twain said he loved it.

In 1860, he promoted the conjoined twins, Chang and Eng, from Thailand (conjoined twins are to this day called Siamese twins). They needed money to send their many children to college, and were living on a North Carolina plantation with slaves. Barnum arranged for a tour. In addition, he hired a giantess, and a microcephalic dwarf. During the civil war many Northerners wanted diversion and entertainment, and Barnum supplied it. He was vehemently pro-union.

Unfortunately, after a fire destroyed his museum in 1865. So he set up elsewhere, but that was also destroyed by another fire in 1868.

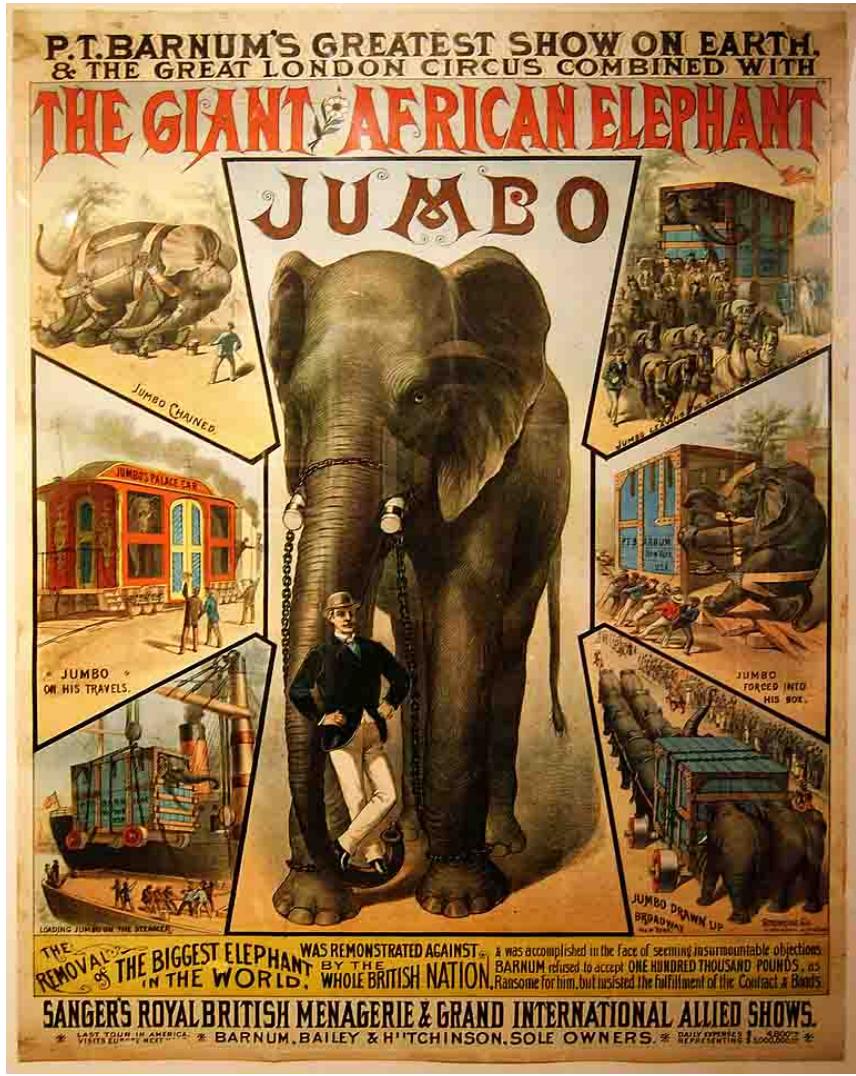


Chang and Eng Conjoined twins from Thailand

In 1870, aged 60 he established a traveling museum with “freaks”, and in 1881 merged with James Bailey to form “Barnum and Bailey”. This was the first three ring circus (i.e. three circus display areas for the audience to watch), which was the world’s largest circus. He was not the first to form a circus; that honor was Philip Astley’s (1742-1814), a former cavalry Sergeant Major, who is the father of the modern circus.

In 1882, he bought a large African elephant from the London Zoo which he named Jumbo. Since then anything that is large is referred to as Jumbo. In 1884 he paid the owners of Brooklyn Bridge \$5,000 to prove the bridge was sound by parading Jumbo, Toung Toloung (a white elephant from Thailand), and nineteen other elephants with 17 camels on the bridge. The advertising was priceless for both the Brooklyn Bridge and for P T Barnum - what they would today call a win-win deal. In 1885, unfortunately Jumbo was killed in a collision with a freight train – Barnum stuffed the skin and in 1889 donated it to what is now Tuft’s university, also donating \$50,000 at the time to establish a Natural History Museum. Tuft’s students to this day are called “Jumbos”.

In 1888, Barnum advertised “Barnum and Bailey’s Greatest Show on Earth” – and it was. It was the first circus to move the show by train with Barnum’s own train. In those days there was no other infrastructure to travel the United States to bring the show to everyone, except horse and cart or oxen and cart.



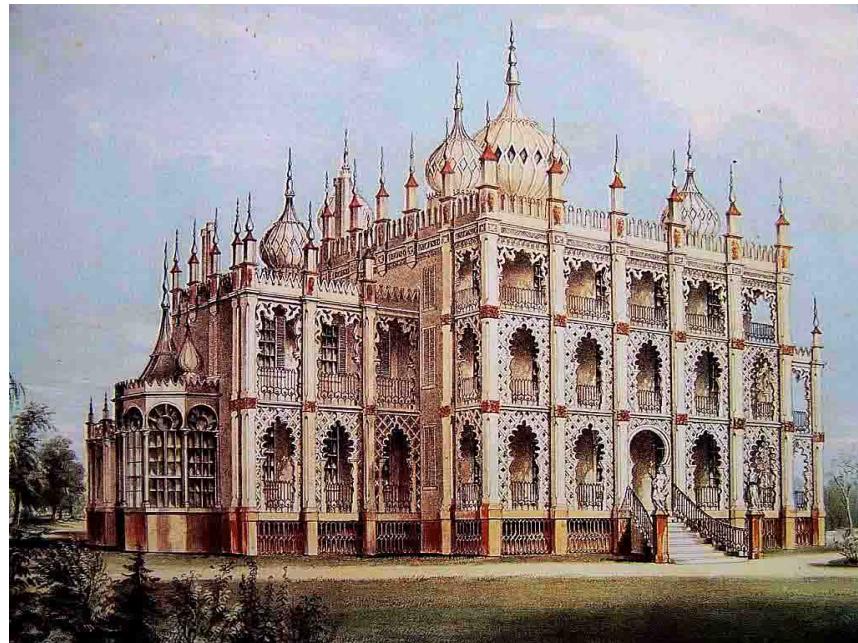
Jumbo the Elephant

As a physician I recognize there are so many different talents that must be respected in society. And salesmanship is one that is under-rated. It requires a constantly positive attitude, an exploitation of win-win situations, a deep understanding of the human psyche, and to be a people person - to know when to talk and when to shut up. For a person in commerce, salesmanship is a specialty that needs more respect than it gets. And Barnum had it in spades.

He realized that hoaxes were good advertising, even telling newspapers in advance that his freaks were hoaxes. He was also against mediums. Mediums were a scourge on society in those days offering (for a fee) to communicate with the dead for anyone whose loved one died during the civil war. Barnum offered \$500 to any medium who could prove communication with the dead. He exposed their tricks of the trade just as Houdini did in the 1920s.

Barnum also focused on slavery, producing minstrel shows which, although they are now politically incorrect, in his time at least introduced the subject. He also produced "Uncle Tom's Cabin" as a show with a happy ending. He opposed the Democratic Kansas-Nebraska Act which supported slavery, and in 1854 left the Democratic Party becoming a Republican (Democrats then supported slavery, Republicans opposed it). In 1865 he was elected Republican Representative for Fairfield County serving four terms.

In 1851, he bought land and laid out streets lined with trees, and bought an 8-acre park which he gave to Bridgeport as an industrial park called Washington Park. In so doing he was stimulating industrial growth for Bridgeport. As Bridgeport mayor in 1875 he brought gas lighting to the streets, enforced liquor and prostitution laws, and improved the water supply. He also founded Bridgeport Hospital and was its first president in 1878



[Iranistan, P. T. Barnum's first house](#)

Barnum had four houses in Bridgeport. The first was Iranistan, in 1848, inspired by the Royal Pavilion built by King George IV between 1787 and 1822, and sold by Queen Victoria (who disliked it) in 1850 to the seaside resort of Brighton located in Sussex, UK. Jenny Lind said were it not for such a splendid

house she would not have come to the United States – she reckoned anyone who lived in such a house must be someone special. But in 1857 it burnt to the ground. Barnum then built Lindencroft.



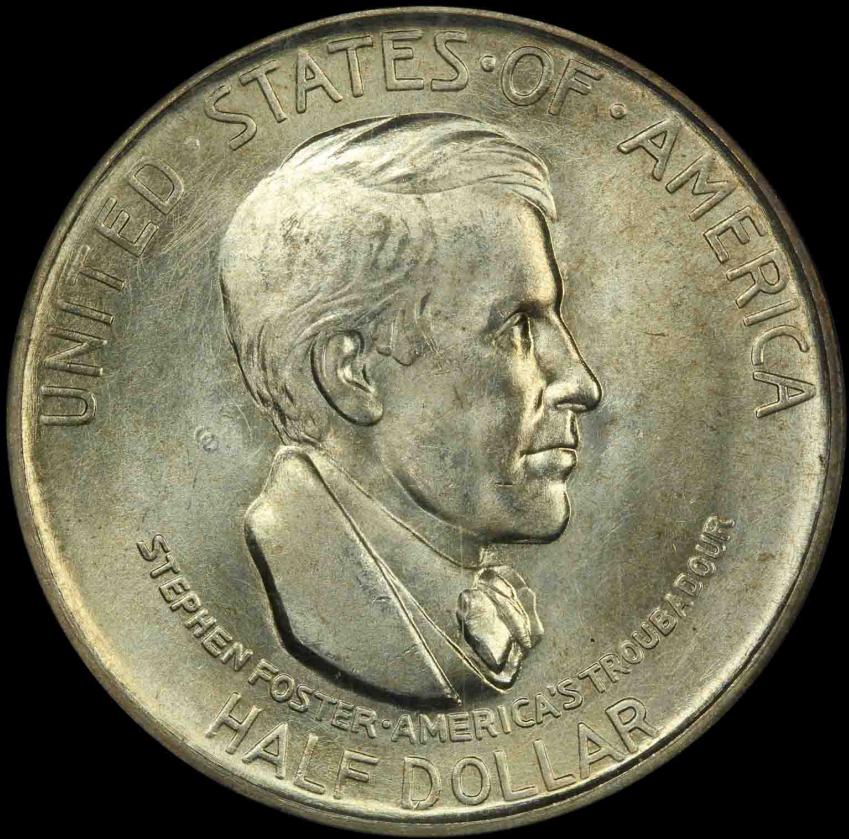
[Lindencroft, Barnum's second house in Bridgeport](#)

In 1869 Barnum decided he wanted to live closer to the sea, and built Waldemere (Woods by the sea). In 1874 while touring Europe aged 63 he was traumatized by the death of his wife. But within weeks he married a 22 year-old named Nancy, whom he met on his travels. They lived in Waldemere. But in 1889 he built Marina, his last mansion by the sea. A year later he had a stroke, and within a year died. Unfortunately, the University of Bridgeport demolished the house in order to build a cafeteria of all things!

In 1907 Barnum and Bailey's circus was sold to the Ringling Brothers for \$400,000. The final performance of Barnum and Bailey/Ringling Brothers was in 2017, after which it closed.

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1936 D CINCINNATI MUSIC COMMEM \$ 1/2 FOSTER/LYRE 12.5 GRAMS, 30.6MM PCGS MS 66

1426

Ten Cities – CC 33 Cincinnati Music Center 1936. The Commemorative that never was.

Background.

This coin is probably the most egregious of all the classic US commemoratives and should never have been authorized by Congress. It could be called the Commemoration that never was.

The Coin.

The obverse shows Stephen Foster's head facing right with a legend below STEPHEN FOSTER•AMERICAN TROUBADOUR. The outer legends read UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and HALF DOLLAR.

The reverse shows a lady holding a lyre half kneeling on an exergual line with IN GOD WE TRUST, E PLURIBUS UNUM and LIBERTY in the exergue. The dates 1886 and 1936 are in the left and right fields. The legend in a ring around the lady reads CINCINNATI•A•MUSIC•CENTER•OF•AMERICA

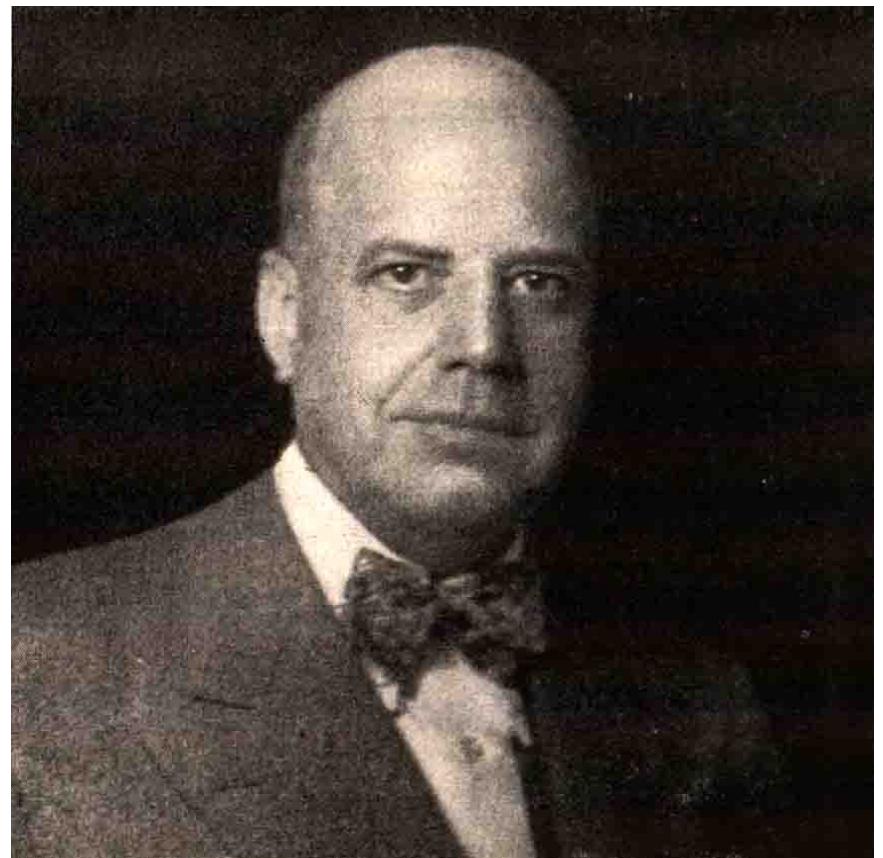
Introducing the coin.

It all started with Thomas G. Melish, (1876-1948) who was a Cincinnati entrepreneur and numismatist. He was responsible for pushing the Cincinnati and Cleveland commemorative half dollars. He initiated a group calling itself the "Cincinnati Music Center Commemorative Coin Association" (CMCCA).

CMCCA claimed it would commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of Cincinnati as a musical center. No contemporary Cincinnati music groups had ever heard of, or communicated with CMCCA. Melish hired the sculptor, Constance Ortmayer, to design and engrave coin dies honoring Stephen Foster. Melish told his association what to do. They were going to earn a lot of money from coin collectors by restrictive marketing. Restrictive marketing was what happened with the Cabbage Patch Kids dolls. They would claim that they had run out of various designs so that collectors clamored for them, when in fact they had not run out at all; they were just trying to limit supplies to drive up prices. Melish decided the coin was going to be minted in all three mints, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Denver; each mint producing 5,000 coins. They would sell the coins in sets of three, one from each mint \$7.75 per set - an unusually high release price. Melish helped shepherd the bill through Congress. Two hundred specially handled and boxed sets were later distributed to Congress.

Charles Moore the Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts smelt a rat. He investigated and found Cincinnati had no special musical heritage and found the designs were ludicrous historical fabrications. He wrote to Mint Director, Nellie Tayloe Ross and said so. He also pointed out that Stephen foster died 73, not 50 years previously, (another interpretation could be Cincinnati Music Center was founded 1886). Furthermore, Foster died in New York City, and although he composed songs, it was certainly not during his three year stay as a bookkeeper

in Cincinnati in the 1840s. He composed while he was living in Pittsburgh and New York City.



Thomas Melish Entrepreneur and numismatist 1876 – 1948

Having researched the matter, Moore pointed out that a Theodore Thomas did find a Cincinnati music festival in 1873 (unfortunately 63 not 50 years prior to the commemoration date of 1936). Moore said Thomas, if anyone, would be a much more appropriated choice on the coin. Before the era of discs, Thomas travelled with a real symphony orchestra exposing Americans to classical music.

Anthony Swiatek and Walter Breen in their book also pointed out that an even more appropriate obverse would have been "John Melish and a bank vault"!

But the CMCCA pressured the Treasury to overrule Charles Moore, and a new fake coin was born.

The designer was the sculptor Constance Ortmayer (1902 – 1988). She had been inspired as an artist by her father who was a lithographer, but after studying under Franz Plunder became a sculptor. She spent five years in Europe studying then returned to US aged 30, and taught sculpture at Rollins College in

Winter Park, Florida, ultimately becoming full professor in 1947. She never married.

Certainly, many people have made unfavorable comments about the subject matter. Just as many have made unfavorable comments about the artistry.



Constance Ortmayer Sculptor of Cincinnati Music Center Coin

The legend “America’s Troubadour” was simply plagiarized from his biography several years before. Foster’s shoulders were cut off in an unseemly way making him look like his head was too big for his body.

B. Max Mehl, a wealthy mass marketing coin dealer from Fort Worth, Texas, commented in his 1937 book on US Commemorative Coins, that the four string lyre held by the “Goddess of Music” must surely have been purchased as a toy from a nickel and dime store! The way the “Goddess” holds the lyre makes it look as though she is showing off a new Louis Vuitton handbag, rather than playing a musical instrument! The response to that criticism was that the Goddess of Music is shown in the art deco style popular in the 1930s. The date, 1886, of course had no historical basis except to convince Congress to authorize the coin.

The first two hundred sets were caught by gloved mint hands to avoid bag marks and were sent to US officials, representatives and Senators. But the issue “sold out” and collectors could not get hold of the sets. The issuing committee (CMCCA) returned many collectors’ checks and the set jumped to \$75 when, hey presto, suddenly all the coins materialized! Cartoons at the time showed speculators buying coins from the CMCCA commissioners at \$5 and selling them at \$10 to lined up collectors. It was estimated that Melish held back 2,000 sets for restrictive marketing. After several months the market slumped.

Although he had nothing to do with the Cincinnati music scene, or with any 50th anniversary, Stephen Foster (1826-1864) was indeed a famous US composer. He composed “Oh! Susanna”, and “Old Folks at home” also called “Swanee River”.

He wrote principally parlor and minstrel music, not classical music. Aged 37 while living in New York City, he developed a fever, and fainted, cutting his neck when he fell. He lost a lot of blood from the laceration and spent three days in the hospital before dying.

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Stephen Foster American Composer 1826-1864



US COMMEMORATIVE \$ 1/2, CLEVELAND GREAT LAKES EXPOSITION 1935. CLEVELAND / GREAT LAKES 30.6MM, 12.5 GRAMS UNC

510

Ten Cities – CC 31

Cleveland Centennial Great Lakes Expo 1936 - another Melish deal

Background.

The Cleveland Centennial and Great Lakes Exposition of 1936/7 was housed on a 135-acre lot on Lake Erie, in Cleveland, Ohio. The coin promoter and impresario Thomas Melish was beside himself with excitement! Yet another coin he could persuade Congress to mint and make money on! Nevertheless, this was a real celebration – an exposition and a genuine centennial. **This coin should really be listed under expositions rather than cities.**

The coin.

The obverse shows Moses Cleaveland facing left with the inner legends MOSES CLEAVELAND ••LIBERTY and outer legends UNITED STATES OF AMERICA •HALF DOLLAR•. The reverse shows compass points over the great lakes with stars marking the major cities. In the right field is E PLURIBUS UNUM. The legends reads IN GOD WE TRUST, 1836 GREAT LAKES EXPOSITION 1936 CLEVELAND CENTENNIAL.

Introducing the coin.

25,000 coins were authorized in 1936, and another 25,000 in 1937, also bearing the date 1936. So Melish would have to change his marketing technique to exposition attendees. Previously he had used restrictive marketing to numismatists with the Cincinnati commemorative.

As he had done with Cincinnati, Melish formed a “Cleveland Centennial Commemorative Coin Association (CCCCA), and of course he was their treasurer. He asked Brenda Putnam to design the coin (more details on her later). Again Melish had Mint employees catch 200 of the initial coins with a gloved hand to prevent bag marks and put these in special holders with a notarized statement of the order of striking and Melish’s signature. Not unexpectedly the CCCCCA’s address was Melish’s office in Cincinnati!

Melish had a big mailing list and he sent cyclostyled letters to those on the list saying he anticipated the whole issue would be sold out in one to three days. About ten days after Melish received the issue of 25,000 coins in his office, he wrote to coin dealer Walter Nichols claiming already to have sold 24,000!

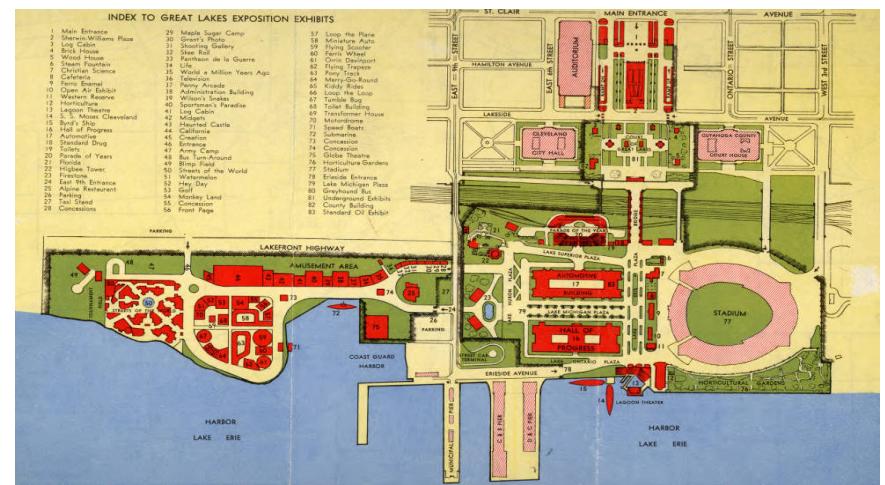
Other coin dealers cashed in on the action. Numismatic dealers Abe Kosoff and Sol Kaplan were close friends of Melish. Sol Kaplan bought many of the unsold pieces, and advertised widely to buy the coins in order to stimulate interest, a common numismatic dealer ploy. Naturally in 1937 another 25,000 were minted and thousands of coins remained unsold.

Interestingly, although the coin was sold at the Great Lakes Exposition for \$1.50, it had no official connection with it – it was one of Melish’s promotions using the Great Lakes Exposition. Profits went to Melish, not to the Great Lakes Expo.

In 1941, the Western Reserve Numismatic Club in Cleveland counter stamped 100 Cleveland commemorative coins for their 20th anniversary, creating interest in the coin. In 1971, they again did a counter stamp on 13 – 20 coins for their 50th anniversary. Both counter stamps showed an image of Moses Cleaveland with the lettering MOSES CLEVELAND (sic). They did not realize that his name was spelt Cleaveland, and that the town changed the spelling to Cleveland without an A, supposedly because the first newspaper could not fit all the type onto the heading of the newspaper, so omitted the A.

The Great Lakes Expo.

This opened June 27th – October 4th, 1936, on the shore of Lake Erie at a 135-acre site. The usual accoutrements of a national expo were there: an art gallery, industry exhibits, accomplishments of Cleveland, public amusement rides, botanical gardens, cafes and streets of the world.



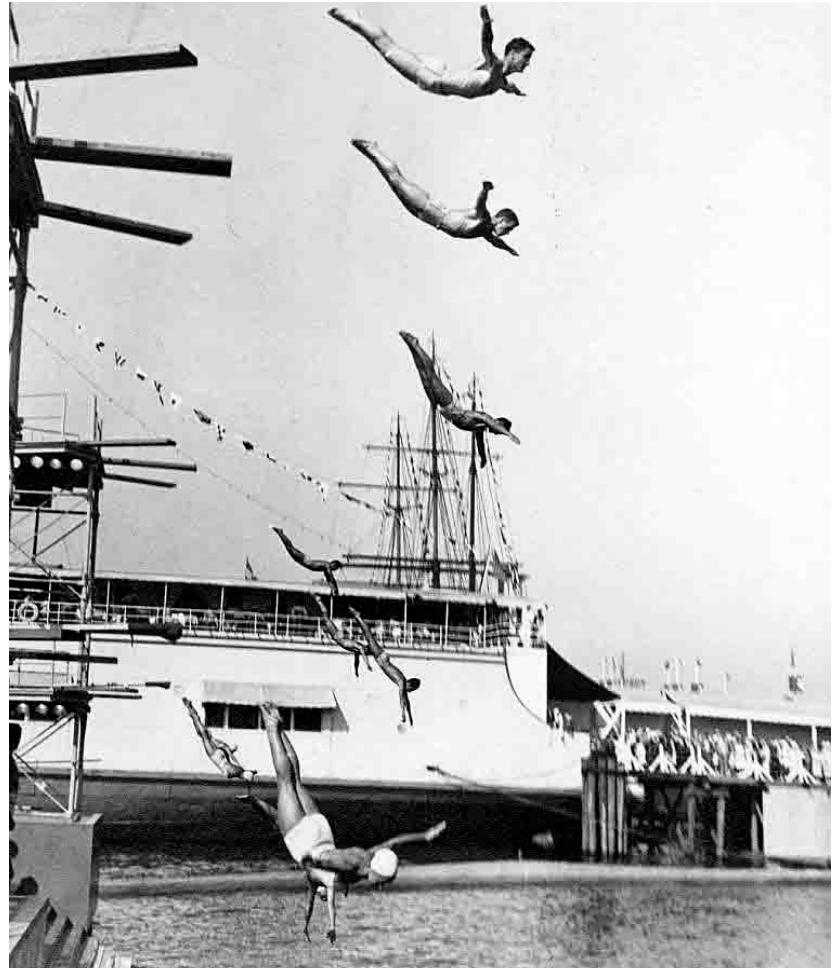
Map of the Great Lakes Exhibition with attractions 1936-1937.



Mayor of Cleveland dressed as a pony express rider.

It was a world's fair intended to invigorate Cleveland during the great depression. It drew 7 million people over two years. By contrast the 1893 Chicago World's Fair drew 27 million. The whole thing cost around \$25 million. It netted Cleveland \$70 million. The building site was constructed by the Works Progress Administration, one of FDR's make-work government projects, in only 80 days.

One of the exhibits was the "Aquacade" with a 5,000 seat restaurant where diners could watch synchronized swimming, diving and performances by Olympic swimmers.



The Aquacade at Great Lakes Exposition 1936-7.

There were 186 buildings, of which 150 were the "Streets of the World" exhibit. Other exhibits included 260-pound ballet dancers, a midget circus, a Southern Plantation life exhibit and nude can-can dancers. Is "politically incorrect" the phrase that comes to mind?! The area is now the Great Lakes Science Center and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.



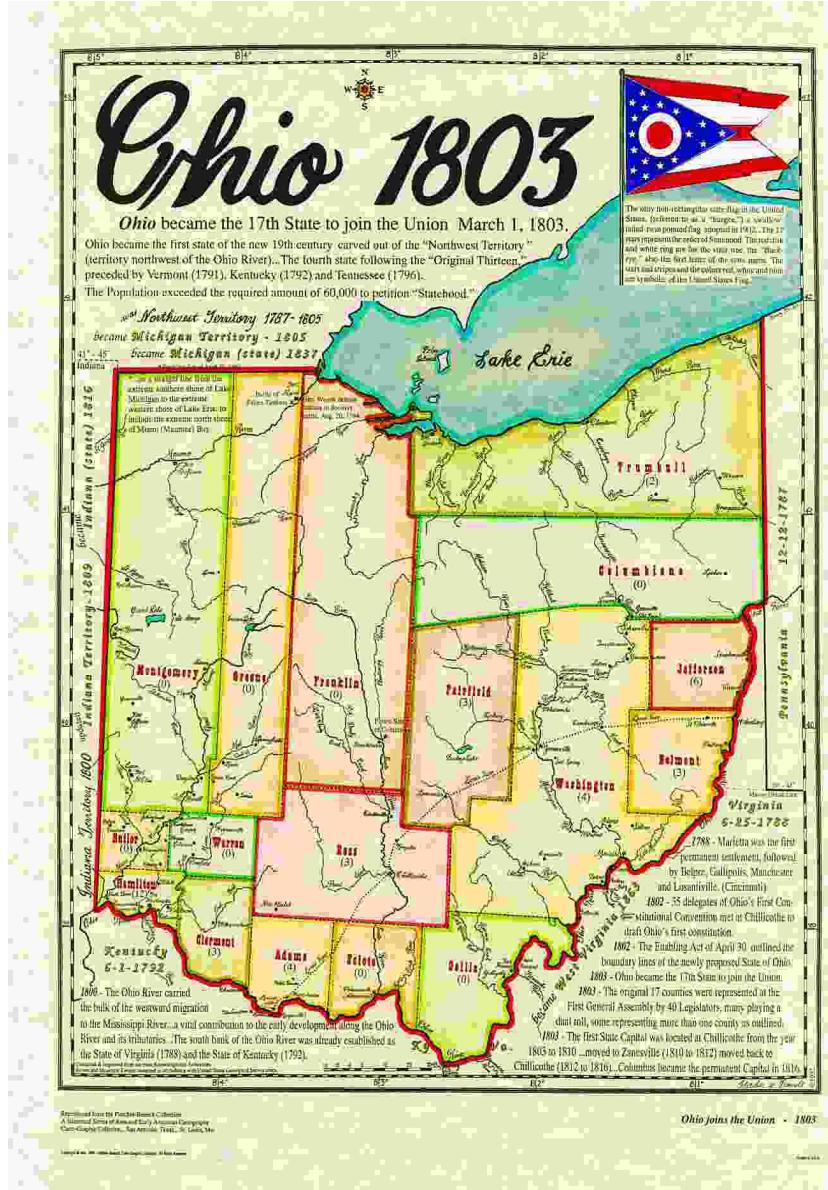
President's Bridge at the Great Lakes Exposition 1936-7.

General Moses Cleaveland (1754 – 1806).

Born in Canterbury, Connecticut about ten minutes from my house, he studied law at Yale, graduating in 1777, and almost immediately was commissioned as an ensign in the Continental Army. By 1779, he was a Captain in the new Corps of Engineers, which included breaching fortifications. In 1781, he resigned and returned to Canterbury to practice law. Elected to the Connecticut General Assembly several times, he was commissioned as a Brigadier General in 1796.



Moses Cleveland



**Map of Ohio 1803 showing Northeast Ohio (Western Reserve).
Cleveland is on Lake Erie's southern coast.**

Cleaveland was a shareholder in a Connecticut Land Company which bought land in Northeastern Ohio (then called Western Reserve because it was part of an old swathe of Connecticut that previously extended to the edge of Indiana Territory). Cleaveland was asked to start a settlement there. He travelled mostly by boat, and founded Cleveland with 50 people in 1796. Almost immediately he returned to Canterbury to return to his law practice.

Brenda Putnam (1890 – 1975).

She was the daughter of Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress. She was also a concert pianist who toured with a trio of piano, violin and cello for some years. She studied at the School of Museum of Fine Arts of Boston under, among others, Bella Lyon Pratt who engraved the Indian Head quarter eagle and half eagle gold coins. Brenda then studied at the Art Students League of New York under James Earle Fraser (the engraver of the buffalo nickel).



Brenda Putnam Sculptor 1890 – 1975.

Brenda had a 40-year career as a sculptor beginning as academic in 1910, transitioning to art deco and retiring to Wilton, Connecticut in the early 1950's. She wrote an influential sculpting book "The Sculptor's Way: A Guide to Modelling and Sculpture" published from 1949 to 2003. In 1920, she rented a Manhattan apartment with sculptor Anna Hyatt. Hyatt married the millionaire Archer Huntington in 1923, leaving Brenda alone. Brenda never married.

The reverse of the coin shows the Great Lakes and stars where cities are except that there is a large star for Cleveland. This device was the official insignia of the Great Lakes Exhibition.

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1936 D COLUMBIA S.C. CENTENNIAL COMMEM \$ 1/2 JUSTICE/PALM TREE 12.5 GRAMS, 30.6 MM NGC MS 64

1291

Ten Cities – CC 41

Columbia Sesquicentennial 1936 –

a “done right” commemorative coin.

Background.

The capital of South Carolina in 1786 was Charleston. State Senator John Gervais introduced a bill that was approved in 1786 by the legislature (then in Charleston) to move the capital of South Carolina to a central location in the state. They chose the name Columbia for their newly planned city. Their streets were 100-150' wide because people then believed that those irksome mosquitos could not fly more than 60' without dying of starvation!

They completed the Capitol building in 1790, and Columbia was initially governed by the state legislature. In 1805, Columbia was incorporated as a village and in 1854 as a city. The Columbia Sesquicentennial Commission (CSC) wanted to celebrate their 150th anniversary (sesquicentennial) of the 1786 birth of the city of Columbia.

The coin.

The obverse shows the allegory of Justice standing in front of the old and the new Capitol building, the 1790 one to the left, and the 1855 to 1875 one to the right. The allegory of Justice is usually depicted blindfolded, but not this time. As usual she holds a sword and scales.



South Carolina State Capitol vignette (from plans) from Type 52
Confederate note of 1862, interestingly this Capitol had not yet been built!

The reverse shows a Palmetto tree (the State emblem) with 13 stars around – South Carolina was one of the original 13 states.

Introducing the coin.

The Commission was composed of the Mayor of Columbia and others appointed by him (note no numismatic impresarios!). They commissioned A. Wolfe Davidson, a 32-year-old sculptor and paid him just \$300 for the plaster casts.



New South Carolina State Capitol building started 1855, completed 1875.

The Commission of Fine Arts pooh-poohed Davidson as they thought he was an amateur with insufficient experience. But collectors loved the design. It is remarkable how experienced artists crowd all sorts of devices and words onto a coin, without enough “white space”. And here was an artist who instinctively knew this. The Commission wanted Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco sets (PDS), and asked Congress to approve 25,000 coins. This resulted in 8,000 PDS sets and 1,000 single coins.

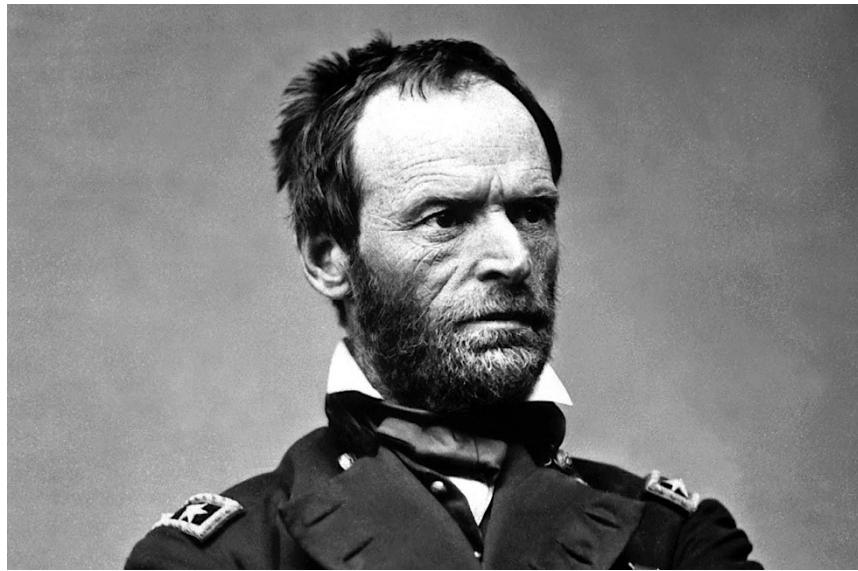
Festivities in March 1936 preceded the coin issue, which was in September. The coins were held by the commission who did not disperse them despite collectors paying the issue price of \$2 with 15¢ postage and packing per coin. People began to suspect that speculators were on the warpath again, and that the commission was hoping to make money out of subscribers.

Finally, in December the commission dispersed all the coins. Actually they were fairly dispersed to collectors rather than dealers and this prevented speculation. Arlie Slabaugh (see references) said they were not distributed until December because not all the branch mints had even delivered the coins to the commission until then. They also set a policy of not more than 10 sets per subscriber thus excluding dealers. Presumably profits went to the town to reimburse it for the festivities in March.

Columbia History

By 1860, Columbia's population reached 8,000 of which 3,300 were slaves. It was at the First Baptist Church in Columbia in 1860 that the South Carolina Secession Convention was held, leading to South Carolina being the first state to secede from the Union, leading to the Civil War (1861-1865). The delegates voted 159-0 to secede.

At the end of the Civil War (1861-1865) Union General Sherman marched 300 miles from Atlanta, GA, to Savannah, GA, with his scorched earth policy. He left Atlanta in November and arrived in Savannah in December 1864. His armies wrecked 300 miles of railroad track, bridges, telegraph wires, cotton gins, cotton mills, and seized livestock, food and cotton.



General William Tecumseh Sherman



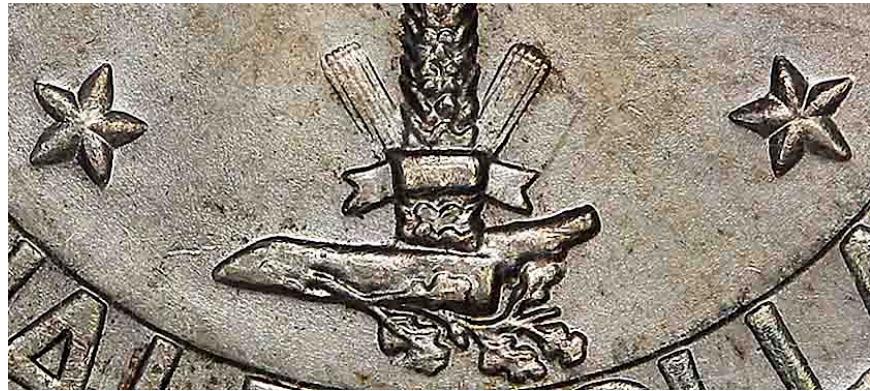
Devastation and ruins in Columbia, South Carolina, after Sherman in 1865.
On right: bronze star on Capitol where civil war cannon balls hit building.

After resting in Savannah for a month Sherman marched north to the Carolinas, and in February 1865 entered Columbia, South Carolina. Much of Columbia was burnt including the State Capitol. A story, probably myth, is that Sherman's soldiers marched up to the First Baptist Church where Secession had been voted for five years earlier, and asked the sexton if he could direct them to the First

Baptist Church. The sexton showed them the way to the Washington Street Methodist Church, which was close by! After the war Sherman denied ordering the city burnt. Some suggest that union troops torched buildings as revenge for South Carolina being the first state to secede.



The burning of Columbia, South Carolina, February 17th, 1865 from
Harper's Magazine.



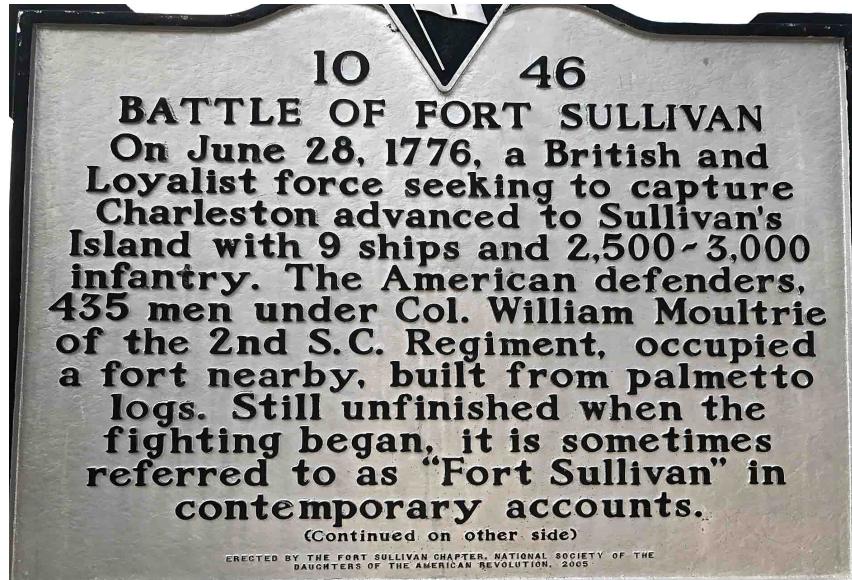
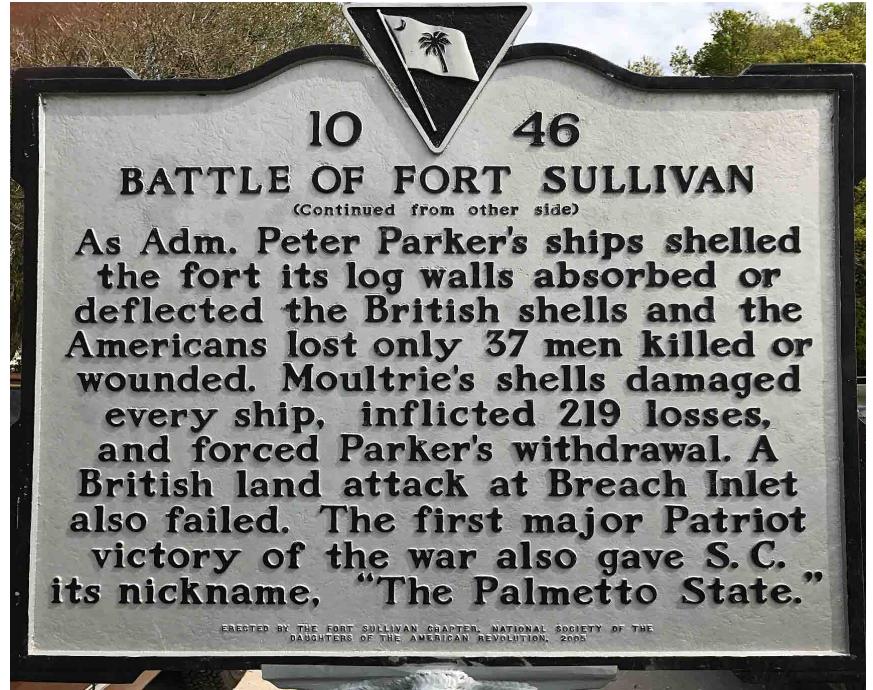
Close-up of base of Palmetto on reverse showing two bundles of arrows and
broken oak sprig.

Tied to the base of the tree are two bundles of arrows which bespeak the use of Palmetto logs at Fort Sullivan. (Actually during the revolutionary war, it was called Fort Moultrie). In 1776 British General Clinton tried to take Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island in Charleston Harbor. Fort Moultrie was made of Palmetto logs enclosing earth, which withstood the British bombardment well, though

British ships were heavily damaged. Although only twelve colonists died, more than 200 British sailors died. The broken oak sprig at the base of the Palmetto tree symbolizes the defeat of the British Navy in 1776.



Model of Fort Moultrie during Revolutionary war times showing construction out of Palmetto logs, containing earth.



The 1776 Battle of Fort Sullivan. Fort Sullivan was also involved in the civil war and the second world war defenses.

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ELGIN, ILLINOIS, CENTENNIAL PIONEER 1936 \$1/2 12.5 GRAMS, 30.6MM MS 64

1181

Ten Cities – CC38, Elgin Centennial.

An instructive story of numismatic marketing.



L.W. Hoffecker Numismatist.

L.W. Hoffecker marketer of coins.

L.W. Hoffecker (1868-1955) was the son of a wheelwright and carriage maker in Pennsylvania. Aged 18 he started collecting coins while working as a letter carrier. Aged 32 he moved with his wife to El Paso, Texas, working as a carpenter and running a building supply business. Ten years later he went bankrupt and within five years his wife, Cora, died of stomach cancer. Four years later he remarried.

In 1922, aged 54, he retired to a life of travelling and numismatics. He visited 72 countries bringing back coins for inventory to sell with his new coin business the “Watkins Coin Company”. As a side line he also developed a mortgage and loan

business. In 1924, he joined the American Numismatic Association (ANA). Five years later, he tried promoting a commemorative coin celebrating the Gadsden Purchase. He had also noticed that money could be made from marketing commemoratives. But Hoover (1929-1933), then in the White House, was not interested in commemorative coins. However, when Franklin Roosevelt, an ardent stamp collector and coin collector, came into the White House, he was only too happy to approve commemorative coins as well as stamp projects.

Hoffecker dreamed up the Old Spanish Trail half dollar commemorative, discussed below. While living in El Paso, Texas, he convinced the El Paso Museum to sponsor a coin he designed. Dealers snapped up the coin quickly.

From 1936 to 1939 Hoffecker was on the ANA board of governors, and from 1939 to 1941 he was the ANA President. He died of heart disease aged 87 in 1955.



Rovelstad finishing touches to one of his other statues (Barr).

Trygve Rovelstad.

Trygve Rovelstad (1903-1990) was born to Norwegian immigrant parents in Elgin, Illinois. He was a medalist and sculptor. He designed a masterpiece, the Elgin Pioneer Memorial, and started the Elgin Centennial Monument Committee (ECMC), which asked Congress to approve a commemorative coin. Congress introduced a bill authorizing 10,000 coins in 1935, the centennial of the settling of Elgin. But the bill languished for a year.

Introducing the coin.

Hoffecker, looking for more commemorative coin business, contacted the ECMC and said he knew the ropes, having done the Old Spanish Trail commemorative and would handle things for them and shepherd the bill through Congress. He also said that he was not a rare coin dealer, which was a whopper of a lie. However, he did offer to put up money for the Elgin Monument project including \$12,000 up front and \$5,000 for the coins (assuming 10,000 half dollars).

Congress held up the bill. They started talking about 20,000 coins because they knew previous dealers had marketed restrictively, inflating prices and profits for themselves. Finally, Congress passed the bill in 1936, a year after the centennial, authorizing up to 25,000 coins.

Hoffecker then said he would sell the coins at \$1.50 a piece with 35¢ for himself, and 65¢ for ECMC (the remaining 50¢ paid for the half dollar coin). He also agreed to pay the die making fee and express charges for shipping, which ultimately amounted to \$410.

So what was the statutory? Let us go back in history a bit: Louis Joliet (1645-1700) a French Canadian fur trader and explorer, and Jacques Marquette (1637-1675), a Jesuit Catholic priest were an unlikely pair. Governor General Frontenac of New France directed them to look for the Northwest Passage, to the Pacific. Count Frontenac knew there was a big river there, and even if it did not go to the Pacific, it might be important.



Louis Joliet



Jacques Marquette

The pair set off in 1673 with 5 voyageurs (French canoers who transported furs). They left St. Ignace at the head of Lake Michigan and, after a little portage, followed the Mississippi river south to modern day Rosedale, Arkansas. There, they turned back to avoid capture by the Spanish, though they knew the Gulf of Mexico was just down river. Marquette kept a diary, but when a canoe overturned he lost all his papers. He was interviewed shortly afterward and drew a map from memory.

Joliet and Marquette had introduced Christianity to 600,000 square miles of wilderness. They had confirmed that they could travel from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico by boat. And they showed that most of the Native Americans along the way were friendly. The French then directed Robert de LaSalle, a famous French explorer of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River, to start a 4,000-mile network of trading posts along the Mississippi River.



Modern map showing travels of Joliet and Marquette.

Elgin is a city of 110,000 about 35 miles northwest of Chicago. It started in 1835 when James T. Gifford, an early pioneer, built a log cabin in what is now Elgin. It was this pioneer spirit that Rovelstad wanted to capture in his statuary.

A statuette, or figurine, is a small statue that one can pick up. A statue is larger than this but less than double size. A colossal statue is a double size statue typically over 12 feet tall of humans. A statuary is a single work of art with a group of statues.

So what Rovelstad had in mind was a colossal statuary revering an early pioneer family coming to Elgin. He designed a small plaster of Paris statuary group of four adults and a baby. The man on the left holding a rifle, was a scout. There was also a father, a mother holding a baby, and an adult son. The father represented James T. Gifford. Rovelstad chose the site of Gifford's first log cabin as the base for the statuary.

The estimate in the 1930's for this colossal bronze statuary with base was \$75,000 - \$100,000. Rovelstad thought the commemorative coin project would help towards the financing of the statuary.

So Rovelstad also designed the commemorative half dollar. The reverse showed the statuary group, and the obverse showed the fur-capped head of the scout facing left. As the Centennial anniversary had passed, Rovelstad put the date 1936 on the coin. But he did not feel he could add 1835, so instead used the Joliet and Marquette exploration date of 1673, which of course, had nothing to do with the commemorative coin for the Elgin Pioneer Statuary. Cornelius Vermeule, who wrote "*Numismatic Art in America*", says this coin is the most artistic of all commemoratives. But sadly, the details are seldom well struck up and facial features are seldom well seen.

However, when all was said and done, ECMC earned only \$8,680 from the program. Hoffecker netted \$6,576 – illustrative of how professional numismatists were able to milk the commemorative coin projects in that era. \$6,576 does not sound like that much but today in 2017 it would be equivalent to \$115,000, a decent fee for a single person working on a spare time project.

The statuary base was poured in concrete, but Rovelstad still had insufficient money for even the granite base. He took a petition signed by 4,000 Elgin residents to Washington, but had no luck. He appealed to the Illinois State Legislature, but also had no luck. By the 1960's the estimate for the colossal statuary was \$200,000, and by 1990 was \$650,000. The statuary would be twelve feet high on a granite base measuring four feet high and twelve by seven feet across. The granite base alone was estimated at \$240,000 in 1991!

This was Rovelstad's life-time project. Unfortunately, he died in 1990 in a nursing home. But finally in 2001 the Pioneer Family Statuary was cast in bronze from the original plaster models after much private and government funding.



Rovelstad's masterpiece: Elgin Pioneer Family as envisioned around 1835.

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SESQUICENTENNIAL OF HUDSON, NY 1935 COMMEM \$1/2. HALF MOON/NEPTUNE ON WHALE; 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS NGC MS 64

1343

Ten Cities – CC27

Hudson, New York, Sesquicentennial.

Dealers screw the public.

Background.

The city of Hudson, New York, wanted to celebrate the 150th anniversary of its incorporation in 1935.

The coin.

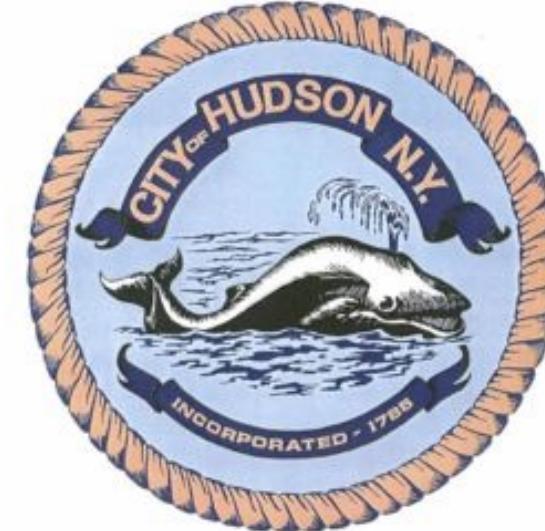
The obverse of the coin shows the Half Moon ship in which Henry Hudson sailed to America in 1609. In the field to the left is a CB monogram for Chester Beach, the coin's designer, and above it a quarter moon alluding to the ship's name. The word HUDSON is buried in the waves. Chester Beach was told to design Henry Hudson's head for the obverse, but he preferred the Half Moon, and the city councilors agreed.



1989 replica of Half Moon made in Albany by New Netherlands Museum.

The reverse of the coin shows an adaptation of the city seal of Hudson, NY. Poseidon, God of the seas, holding a trident is riding backwards on a spouting whale. His son, Triton (a merman with a male body and fish tail) blows his conch-shell trumpet, which mythologically stilled the waves. The label over it reads: ET DECUS ET PREMIUM RECTI, which means "both an ornament and a reward for virtue". The date 1785 beneath refers to the date of incorporation of the city of Hudson.

The area was first settled in 1662 as Claverack Landing, a trading post on the Hudson set up by the Dutch Rensselaer family. In 1783 settlers from Rhode Island, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard (many of whom were Quaker whalers) named a group of 30 proprietors, to search for a suitable place for a settlement for them. They chose Claverack Landing and within two years incorporated the area as the city of Hudson. Typically, coins are dated on the obverse, but this is dated on the reverse adding further to the confusion of which side is which. The whale and sea on the city seal represents the Whalers who founded the city.



Seal of city of Hudson, NY.

Introducing the coin.

10,000 coins were delivered to the first National Bank and Trust Company of Hudson, to sell at \$1 apiece. But only four days later the bank announced they had sold out. This was because of several pre-orders especially one of 7,500 from Julius Guttag of Guttag Brothers, New York City, for 95 cents apiece. Some lucky collectors had also thought to pre-order. Previously commemorative coins could be mail ordered from the bank by collectors.

Within a month of the "sell-out" the coins were advertised for \$12.50 apiece! Other coin dealers jokingly called the Hudson commemorative half dollars "Guttag halves". Many collectors complained they could not get a coin at a reasonable price, and unfortunately this turned into bad publicity for the city of Hudson. Collectors noted the wide availability of the coin at inflated prices at dealers' tables at shows, and knew that dealers had screwed them.

Henry Hudson (?1565-1611) was an English explorer, who probably started sailing as a cabin boy and became a skilled navigator of Artic sea routes. He sailed in 1607, 1608, and 1610 for the English and in 1609 for the Dutch. He, like others, was searching for the Northeast and Northwest Passages.



No known portrait exists of Henry Hudson – this is an artist's likeness.

First and second voyages.

The Muscovy Company was founded in 1555, and had a monopoly in trade with Muscovy (Russia) until 1698. It was the first major chartered British joint stock company. They hired Hudson in 1607 to find a Northeast Passage. He sailed to Spitsbergen, north of Norway, but pack ice prevented him going further.

In 1608 they sent him again and this time he reached Novaya Zemlya an island northeast of Norway, again meeting with pack ice (see map opposite). Interestingly climate change has now opened a Northeast passage around Russia to China.

Third Voyage.

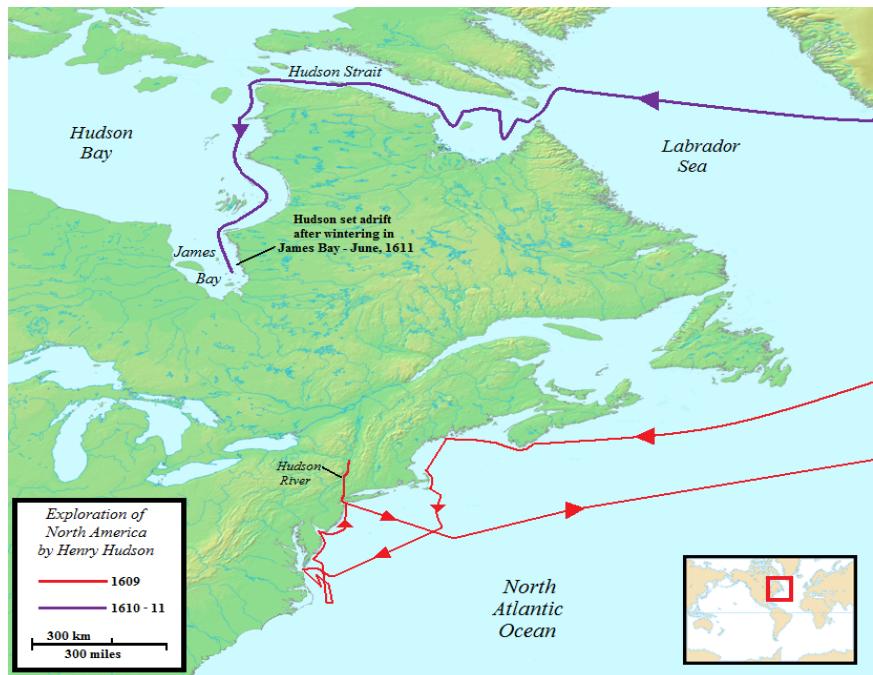
In 1609 the recently formed Dutch East India Company (VOC or Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie in Dutch) hired Hudson. They were one of the largest companies in history lasting from 1602 until 1799. For almost 200 years they paid an incredible annual dividend averaging 18%. They sent a million Europeans east in 5,000 ships, moving five times the tonnage of the British East India Company. This was the new Silicon Valley startup of the day. It was they who told Hudson to search for a Northeast Passage.

But around that time Hudson had also heard of a possible Northwest Passage inspired by stories of a captain by the name of Weymouth who voyaged in 1602, and of a Captain John Smith in Virginia and New England. Hudson set off in the Half Moon ("Halve Maene" in Dutch), an 85-foot, square rigged, three-masted vessel with 15 to 20 crew sailing northeast. But he was again blocked by pack ice. Against instructions he turned west and sailed to Newfoundland exploring the eastern seaboard down to Chesapeake Bay.



Arctic Circle in blue, note Svalbard (Spitsbergen), and Novaya Zemlya.

Giovanni da Verrazano (1485-1528), a Florentine Italian working for Francis I of France, had previously explored the eastern seaboard from New Brunswick down to Florida in 1524, and discovered New York Bay. Hudson further explored the Hudson River, sailing 150 miles upstream to present day Albany, far enough to opine that this was a river, not the Northwest Passage. Incidentally Samuel de Champlain from France was exploring south of Quebec at the same time.



Hudson's third and fourth voyages to North America.

On his way back to Holland, Hudson docked at Dartmouth, England, where he was told to desist from further explorations for foreign governments. At that time England and Netherlands were competing for foreign acquisitions. The English tried to get hold of Hudson's maps and documents but he was able to hand them over to the Dutch ambassador. Because of his explorations the Dutch would later found a trading post at Albany in 1614, around 40 miles further upriver from Hudson, and established New Netherland, with its capital New Amsterdam on the tip of Manhattan in 1625.

Fourth and final Voyage.

The British East India Company paid Hudson £300. Noblemen, merchants, the Virginia Company and probably the Muscovy Company also chipped in for Hudson's next voyage to Hudson Bay – another possible Northwest Passage in 1610 in the 55-ton “Discovery”. He explored Hudson's Bay, meticulously mapping the shores and by November found himself trapped by ice in James Bay in the south of Hudson's Bay. The crew moved ashore for the winter.

When the ice melted in 1611 Hudson wanted to explore more of Hudson's Bay, but the crew wanted to go home. Ultimately the crew mutinied and cast Hudson, his son, and seven others with scurvy or other diseases, adrift in a small boat. They were never seen again. Exactly what happened next is difficult to know. If the mutinied crew owned up to being ringleaders, they may have been hung. The story they told was that the two ringleaders (who conveniently died

on the way home) were close friends of Hudson. In case they held any valuable information England tried the men for murder, but did not hang them.



John Collier's painting of Hudson, son and seven others set adrift in a boat.

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LYNCHBURG, VA SESQUICENTENNIAL 1936 COMMEM \$1/2. SEN. GLASS/LIBERTY. 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS PCGS MS 64

1338

Ten Cities – CC38

The Lynchburg Sesquicentennial, an event of no importance.

Background.

In 1936, Lynchburg, Virginia, celebrated the sesquicentennial of its city charter – an event of no national significance, and hardly any local significance! They asked for a commemorative coin and got one! So should we talk about Lynchburg, or about what is most prominently displayed on the coin – Senator Glass? As it turns out, Senator Glass' accomplishments in starting the Federal Reserve were far more important for the nation.



Map of Virginia showing Lynchburg, Virginia.

The coin.

The obverse shows the portrait of Virginia Senator Carter Glass (1858-1946) facing left with the usual mottoes. The reverse shows a standing Liberty in front of Monument Terrace in Lynchburg with the confederate monument in front of the old Lynchburg Courthouse. The Confederate Monument depicts a confederate soldier 1861-1865. A 2016 Southern Poverty Law Center study showed 718 Confederate monuments and statues across the USA. "USA Today" estimates 1,000 such monuments. In the modern politically correct era, it has become fashionable to remove any such reminders of our history. But as George Santayana said – those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

Introducing the coin.

The city was proud of their town personalities like Senator Carter Glass, John Lynch, and the Warner Brothers. They chose Charles Keck as the engraver, who had also engraved the 1915 Pan-American Pacific gold dollar and the Vermont half dollar. The town council wanted a portrait of John Lynch the founder of the town. But they could not find one! So they settled instead, for a portrait of their most famous citizen, who also just happened to be the President of the Lynchburg Commemorative Coin Association.

To put a portrait of a living person on a coin was illegal. Congress passed a law in 1866 to say that no living person could be portrayed on a US coin or currency. Any President also had to be dead at least two years before appearing on coin or currency.

This law was violated for the first time with Governor Kilby of Alabama on the 1921 Alabama commemorative half dollar. It was violated for the second time in 1926 with the Declaration of Independence Sesquicentennial showing President Calvin Coolidge while he was still alive. And it was violated for the third time with Senator Glass on the Lynchburg commemorative. Glass apparently protested having his portrait on the coin, but not enough to prevent it appearing! Congress may make the laws, but they do not have to abide by them!



Senator Carter Glass. Note contemporary sartorial elegance.

Twenty thousand coins were struck and sold at \$1 apiece, mostly to collectors. Customers could not buy more than ten coins. This helped to pay for city celebrations. Outsiders had to pay an extra 25 cents to cover postage and packing. All the coins sold, and dealers did not manipulate the situation.

The Town of Lynchburg

Lynchburg, at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, is called the “City of Seven Hills”. The Seneca Indians were part of the Iroquois Confederacy and ceded the Lynchburg area to the Colony of Virginia at the Treaty of Albany in 1718. The city was named after John Lynch who started a ferry across the James River in what is now Lynchburg. Richmond, though also inland, was much closer to the sea along the James River, and became dominant.

Lynchburg was incorporated as a town in 1805, and later as a city in 1852. In 1806 Thomas Jefferson, while President, built a home “Poplar Forest” nearby to avoid all his visitors to Monticello. In the 1850s Lynchburg became very wealthy because of tobacco, slave trading, iron manufacturing and the railroads. During the civil War (1861-1865) Lynchburg was a Confederate transportation hub and supply depot.



Monument Terrace with the Confederate Soldier and Courthouse behind.

Confederate General Thomas Munford defeated Union General Philip Sheridan at the Battle of Trevilian Station when the Union tried to take Lynchburg in June 1864. A week later Confederate General Jubal Early again defeated Union General David Hunter despite overwhelming forces at the Battle of Lynchburg.

For a few days before General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox, Lynchburg (20 miles west of Appomattox) was the capital of Virginia.

During the later 1800s the city was industrial, sometimes called the “Pittsburgh of the South”. Lynchburg further distinguished itself by nurturing the inventor of the first cigarette rolling machine, and the first over-the-counter enema!

A sad facet of Lynchburg history occurred in the 1900s just outside Lynchburg. 8,300 Virginians were sent to the “Virginia State Colony for Epileptics and Feebleminded” for sterilization during the eugenics craze which lasted there until 1972. “Feebleminded” became “mentally retarded”, then “mentally handicapped” then “intellectually challenged”.

Senator Glass

The real importance of the coin is probably Senator Carter Glass (whose portrait looms large on the coin) rather than the City of Lynchburg. Glass became a reporter at age 22 for the Lynchburg News. Seven years later he became the editor. The next year the owner retired and sold the paper to Glass for \$13,000. Obviously Glass had to borrow the money. Subsequently, his paper became the leading newspaper in town. As a southern Democrat in the 1930s he supported Jim Crow legislation and advocated segregation.

Glass became a state senator in 1899. In 1902, he became a US Representative in Congress and became chairman of the House Committee on Banking and Currency in 1913. Glass's founding of the Federal Reserve System is immensely more important than the history of Lynchburg.

Previously the National Banking System had no provision to increase or decrease the money supply. The explanation of what was so great about the Federal Reserve System or “Fed” has always been difficult for me to understand. Nevertheless, the head of the Fed, after the US President, is said to be the most powerful person in the world, so there must be something to it! A brief diversion follows about the Federal Reserve System:

Under the US National Banking System, which started in 1863, tight money led to bank failures, factory closures, mortgage foreclosures, unemployment and starvation. This often occurred in cycles. The problem was a lack of elasticity of money (the ability to expand and contract the money supply during different economic cycles).

In 1908, the Aldrich-Vreeland Act gave temporary relief, so in 1912 Aldrich proposed a National Reserve Association. However, farmers opposed this.

Glass then introduced the Federal Reserve Act in 1913, with 12 federal banking branches throughout the country. These Federal Reserve Banks had the ability to vary the interest rate on money it lent to other banks (called the discount rate).

In exceptional circumstances the Fed could vary the reserve requirements. The reserve ratio is derived from the percentage of deposits the bank must have on hand in cash (currently 10%). Thus, a bank may have deposits of \$10 million, but it can loan out \$9 million of that as long as it keeps \$1 million (10%) cash on hand. A bank can also borrow money from a Federal Reserve Bank at the discount rate (in February 2019 that was 3%) and loan it out for an auto loan, mortgage, or other loan, at a higher rate. The Fed's finger on the economic pulse has resulted in sufficient elasticity of the money supply to keep interest rates and unemployment low.

The Fed's ability to make these changes is called monetary policy which happens over a period of weeks to months. Fiscal policy is what the Federal government does when it changes taxes, which can take years to have an effect. For example, the 2018 drop in US corporate taxation from 35% (which was the highest in the developed world) to 21% will probably take years to entice back US corporations to the US.

In 1918, Glass became Secretary of the Treasury until 1920 under President Woodrow Wilson. In 1920 he was nominated for President by the Democratic Party, but lost to the Ohio publisher James Cox. The Republican Candidate Warren G. Harding won.

The effect of the Federal Reserve Act was good for the country but obviously did not prevent the great depression. In 1933, Sen. Glass and Rep. Steagall introduced the Glass-Steagall Act, creating the Federal Deposit Insurance Company (FDIC). The FDIC still charges banks a percentage of their deposits to insure against bank runs. Importantly this stopped bank runs which made banks go bankrupt, and thus stopped people losing their life's savings.

Before 1933 if people got worried (which happened frequently in economically uncertain times) they cashed out their money from the bank. Long lines formed, and it was first come first served. The people at the back of the line got nothing. The lucky people in the front of the line got their money out. Banks loaned out a portion of the deposits, so could not pay everyone the money they had deposited. The FDIC had a positive effect. The Glass-Steagall Act also separated investment from consumer banking. Ultimately in 1999 the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act repealed the separation of investment and consumer banking. But the FDIC remains.

Glass supported states' rights and supported fiscal conservatism. He opposed FDR over much of the New Deal. In 1933 FDR asked Glass to be Secretary of the Treasury, but Glass refused.

Glass's first wife died in 1937, and at the age of 82 he married again, this time to Ms. May Scott. Glass's health started failing, and he often could not attend the Senate. His wife would keep away many visitors. In 1947 he died from congestive heart failure.

An interesting post-script after Glass died was what became of his house. The mansion that he had built in 1923 near Lynchburg was acquired by the evangelist Jerry Falwell. Falwell (1933-2007) founded a Baptist church in Lynchburg in 1956 which became a megachurch (meaning over 2,000 members attend regularly). Falwell campaigned against desegregation and against Martin Luther King.

Falwell bought Carter Glass's mansion and its extensive grounds in the 1960s converting it into a "private school for white students". The name changed in 1971 to "Liberty University", which now has 110,000 students. Falwell founded the "Moral Majority", a white conservative evangelical lobby group, that was pro-life and pro-white. Many say it may have been instrumental in getting Ronald Reagan elected.

Falwell was anti-Clinton, anti-LGBT, and anti-Islam. He believed in a second coming of Christ, and said the anti-Christ would soon appear as a Jew.



Carter Glass's 1923 Montview Mansion

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NEW ROCHELLE, NY, 250TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEM \$1/2. JOHN PELL & CALF/FLEUR DE LYS. 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS PCGS MS 65

1341

New Rochelle Half Dollar

Ten Cities CC47

New Rochelle 250th Anniversary.

Another unimportant event, a town of 55,000 only two miles from the New York City border.

Background.

New Rochelle, New York wanted a commemorative coin for their 250th anniversary in 1938.

The coin.

The obverse of the New Rochelle half dollar shows a protesting calf probably being delivered to a man dressed in fine clothes of the late 1600s. In the right lower field is GKL for the designer Gertrude Lathrop. Around the device is: NEW ROCHELLE. NEW YORK. SETTLED 1688. INCORPORATED 1899.

The reverse shows a modern interpretation of a fleur-de-lis, symbol of France since 1180, which is also on the New Rochelle shield. Each side has denticles - tooth like projections from the side of the coin, the last US coin to have denticles.

The Fleur-de-lis as a device.



Iris pseudacorus

Fleur –de-lis means flower of lily, but the yellow painted symbol on the town shield below looks more like an iris, which can be yellow, though wild lilies are never yellow. In French, fleur-de-lis is singular; fleurs-de-lis are plural. Lis can be spelled lis or lys. Lis appeared first around 1150. Louis VI 1108-1137 was reputed to use a fleur-de-lis on his coat of arms, but had none on his coins. But Louis VII 1137-80 struck a denier (Duplessy-151) with a truncated fleur-de-lis.



Iris florentina

The fleur-de-lis looks more like an iris than a lily. Franks lived around the River Leie in Flanders, which has many yellow irises. Therefore, they called it

flowers of Leie, or Fleurs-de-lis. This is the most plausible explanation of why the fleur-de-lis really looks like a yellow iris. At any rate, the reason the fleur-de-lis is on the New Rochelle coin is that it was on the New Rochelle shield.



Early French coin 1266-1270 with many Fleurs-de-lis on reverse.



New Rochelle Modern Town Shield

New Rochelle History.

New Rochelle was settled in 1688 when the French Huguenots landed at Bonnefoi Point, Echo Bay, Long Island sound.

Huguenots were French Protestants mainly from Northern France, inspired by John Calvin's writings, who broke from the Roman Catholic church. Their numbers reached two million by 1562.

In 1681, French King Louis XIV instituted a policy of "Dragonades" to intimidate Huguenot families to leave France or convert to Catholicism. This meant billeting dragoons in Protestant households with permission to abuse, destroy or steal their possessions. In 1685, Louis XIV issued the Edict of Fontainebleau, ending any legal recognition of Protestantism in France, forcing Huguenots to convert or flee. By then they numbered only about one million.

A group from La Rochelle, France commissioned Jacob Leisler to find land.



Jacob Leisler Once Governor of New York State

Jacob Leisler (1640 – 1691) was a German-born colonist in the Province of New York. He gained wealth in New Amsterdam (later New York City) in the fur trade and tobacco business. In what became known as Leisler's Rebellion following the English Revolution of 1688, he took control of the city, and ultimately the entire province, from appointees of the deposed King James II, in the name of the Protestant accession of William and Mary. Leisler bought 6,000 acres from Sir John Pell, thus founding New Rochelle. One condition of the sale was that Leisler and his heirs give Pell a fatted calf each year on 24th June if demanded, for the festival of St. John the Baptist.

Sir John Pell inherited his estate from his uncle, John Pell Sr., an English mathematician (1611-1685). John Pell Sr.'s brother was Thomas Pell (1612-1669), a physician who immigrated to New England in the 1630s. In 1664, Thomas signed a treaty with Indian Chief Wampage granting him 50,000 acres, including part of the Bronx and land along Long Island Sound in what is now Westchester County. Childless, Thomas left his estate to his nephew, Sir John Pell (1643-1702), one of the mathematician's four sons, who resided there as the first Lord of the Manor of Pelham.

Marketing the coin.

It was the Westchester Coin Club in New Rochelle who asked for the commemorative coin and wanted to sell it, but the United States Congress specified that the First National Bank of New Rochelle should sell them instead.

The Philadelphia Mint struck 25,000 coins which sold for \$2 each. The Bank only sold 15,251 coins and returned 9,749 to Philadelphia for melting. Fifty specimen pieces were struck on proof planchets with a single blow and 10 to 14 matte proofs were made. The Coin Club Committee timed the project well, obtaining congressional authorization in 1936 to strike a coin in 1937 for the 250th anniversary in 1938. A 250th anniversary is also called a "sestercentennial", "ses" means half, and "ter" means three, i.e. halfway between two and three.

John Guttag was a New Rochelle resident. He had speculated on the Hudson (not the New Rochelle) commemorative half dollar buying up 75% of the issue, and selling it later at many multiples of the issue price. He served as the chairman of the sales committee for the New Rochelle issue. But thankfully no speculators exploited this issue.

The artist.

Lorillard Wise did the first design depicting a Native American at shore awaiting the settler's arrival by canoe, with the city arms on the reverse. The Commission on Fine Arts rejected these designs. New Rochelle Commemorative Coin Committee chairman, Pitt M. Skipton, had seen the Albany Commemorative half dollar and then commissioned Gertrude Lathrop to do the designs.

Lathrop had also designed the Albany Charter commemorative half dollar with the beaver obverse and reverse showing the Governor bidding farewell to Robert Livingston and Peter Schuyler (holding the charter). Lathrop had a live beaver in her studio for this. New York Representative, Parker Coming lent her a fatted calf from his farm, but presumably it did not reside in her studio! She loved sculpting animals.

Stuart Moshe in "US Commemorative Coins, 1940" opined Lathrop's design artistic, favoring the simplicity, white space and unobtrusiveness of the multiple obligatory legends that the US Congress demanded. Cornelius Vermeule in his book "*Numismatic Art in America*" labels it tasteless. I leave it to the reader to decide. Personally I like the refreshing design.

Marketing Commemoratives from 1935 to 1939.

Congress was inundated by bills proposing commemorative half dollars from 1935 to 1939. Most schemes failed. Too many succeeded with events of dubious, ridiculous, or no significance. There were many small communities that wanted a US Mint commemorative coin and Congress let many of these through. Too many passed in 1936, but in 1937 most failed. It was the small communities, coin clubs, coin dealers and politicians who pushed all these schemes.

According to Bowers in his book *Commemorative Coins of the US*, in 1936, 81 commemorative coin bills were before Congress. Collectors were becoming jaundiced, as they have become today with modern (1982 on) commemoratives which are often issued in different metals, proof and uncirculated, different denominations and mintmarks. People wanting to collect modern commemoratives may find this financially impractical. For example, in 1995 The US Mint's offerings totaled 40 coins, which today list for \$7,795 in the Red Book.

But, reverting to the situation in 1937, suggestions were made that medals be produced rather than commemorative coins. The 1926, the Oregon Trail Act authorized six million coins, although distribution was only around 203,000. Other Acts authorized equally ridiculous quantities e.g. the Texas centennial authorized 1.5 million coins in 1934, of which less than 150,000 were distributed, despite five different dates and three different mints.

In 1939, Congress prohibited further commemorative coin issues. During World War II commemoratives were mostly forgotten. Collectors turned to US cents, nickels, dimes, and Barber coinage (1892 to 1915).

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1936 NORFOLK TERCENTENNIAL COMMEM \$ 1/2 SHIP/MACE 12.5GRAMS, 30.6MM NGC MS 65

1290

Ten Cities – CC44

Norfolk, Virginia, Bicentennial

Background.

In 1936, Norfolk City fathers thought the US should celebrate the 200th anniversary of the “villages” form of government (a specific form of incorporated municipal government, similar to a city but with less authority and geographic scope).

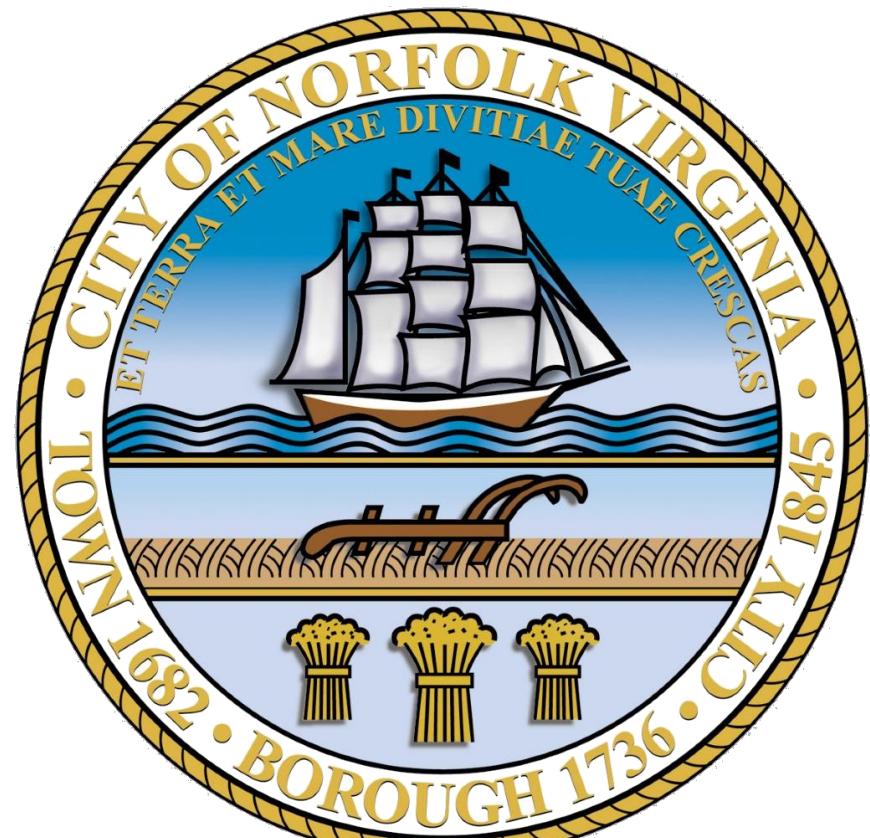
The Artist.

The City fathers chose William Marks Simpson (1903-1958) and his wife Marjorie Emery Simpson, who were Baltimore as sculptors to design the coin. But unfortunately, the coin looks as though it has been designed by a committee. It looks ridiculously cluttered. Cornelius Vermeule in his book “Numismatic art in America” called it “a low point in coin design.... with too much inscription.... two heads need not be better than one”. William Simpson also designed the Roanoke Island commemorative half dollar, equally cluttered with inscriptions, and the 1937 Antietam commemorative half dollar, which though more appealing, is still cluttered with too many words. The fact that the Commission on Fine Arts approved the design says something about how artistic taste changes.

The husband and wife sculptor team paralleled Earle Fraser and his wife Laura Gardin Fraser who together designed the Oregon Trail commemorative half dollar, felt by many to be the most artistic of the classic commemorative coins.



Sketch of William Marks Simpson



Norfolk, Virginia City Seal

The coin.

The obverse's central device is the Norfolk City Seal, showing a ship on stylized waves. Below is a plow in a field, and below that are three sheaves of wheat. Within the inner circle is ET TERRA ET MARE DIVITIAE TUAE and CRESCAS meaning: “both land and sea are your riches, may you grow”. In the intermediate ring is CITY OF NORFOK VIRGINIA TOWN 1682. BOROUGH 1736. CITY 1845. In the outer ring is: “BOROUGH OF NORFOLK BICENTENNIAL 1936”.

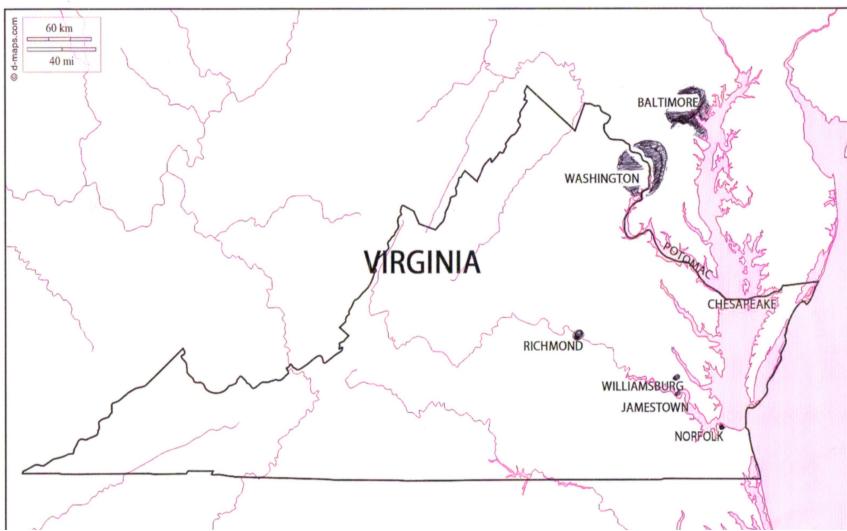
The reverse shows the royal mace flanked by 1636 and two dogwood sprigs. Inscriptions are: IN GOD WE TRUST, E PLURIBUS UNUM, LIBERTY. Legends are: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, HALF DOLLAR, NORFOLK VIRGINIA LAND GRANT. In the right lower field is a monogram WM over ME with a large overlying S, for William and Marjorie Simpson. Interestingly the coin has five dates! But not the date it was minted!



Norfolk's Mace

The mace.

Maces with a spiked head were used in the middle ages to crush metal armor. Maces later became ceremonial, often acknowledging a public official. Lt. Governor Robert Dinwiddie gave the city of Norfolk this mace in 1754. It symbolized his power that flowed from King George II of England. In 1885 this mace was kept at the Exchange Bank of Norfolk. The bank foreclosed and the mace disappeared. Nine years later the Norfolk City Police Chief found the mace among litter in the Norfolk police station! The original was transferred in 1989 to the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk, and a replica is used in ceremonies.



Map of Virginia showing locations of Norfolk and Jamestown

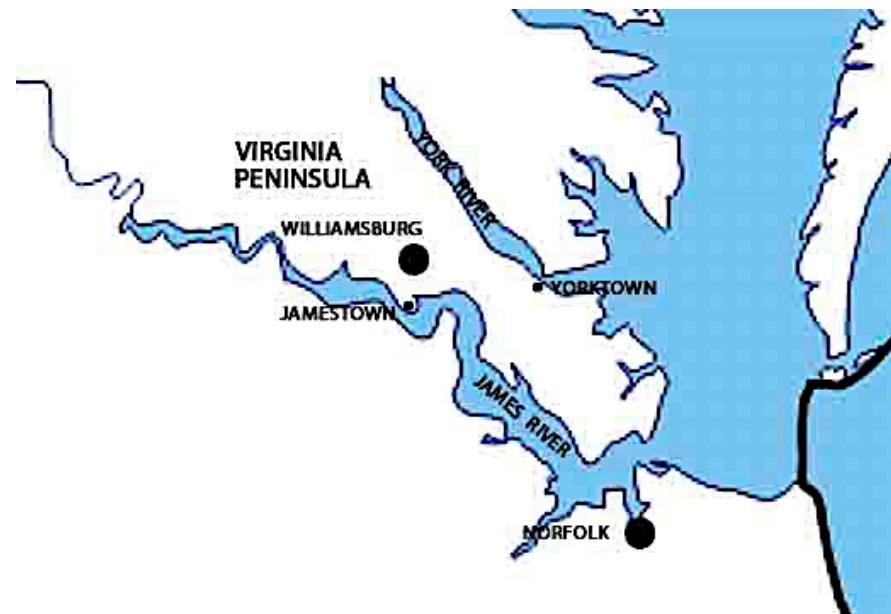
History of Norfolk

In 1584, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, Sir Walter Raleigh led an expedition to settle in North America. They selected Roanoke Island, but the settlement failed. In 1607, Jamestown settlers arrived looking for gold. But finding none they founded until one of their members, Capt. John Rolfe, discovered how to cultivate tobacco as a cash crop. Tobacco was mainly tended by indentured servants, who could get a free sailing to Virginia if they agreed to be a servant (typically for three years). Tobacco planters became wealthy.

In 1622, Adam Thoroughgood (1604-1640), from the city of Norfolk in England travelled as an indentured servant to Virginia. After three years he became free and in 1629 was elected to the House of Burgesses, becoming a leading citizen. In 1636, he was granted a large land holding along the Lynnhaven river (now in the adjacent city of Virginia Beach) because he had persuaded 105 people to settle there. It was Thoroughgood who suggested Norfolk as the town's name after his home town in England. In 1662, the colony turned to the slave trade, Slaves, rather than indentured servants, then took over tobacco cultivation.

In 1670, a royal decree directed that tobacco warehouses be built. Soon paper receipts for deposits of tobacco in the warehouses became a form of paper money. Norfolk became important as a deep water port. In 1682, they received a royal charter like Jamestown and Williamsburg. By 1775, Norfolk was famous for shipbuilding; shipping tobacco, corn, cotton and timber to England; importing rum and sugar from the West Indies; and importing finished manufactured products from England.

Lord Dunmore was the last Colonial British Governor of Virginia. He suffered a bad defeat at the Battle of Great Bridge in 1775, and in 1776 bombarded Norfolk, which lead to fire destroying 19 houses. It was a loyalist city, and rebels were only too glad that the British had started burning their own city, so rebels actually set fire to another 863 houses! The remaining 416 standing houses were later destroyed by rebels to ensure the British could not return.



Map of Virginia peninsula showing Norfolk and Jamestown

After the Revolutionary war, Norfolk county changed from tobacco to more diversified farming. In 1807, the US prohibited the further importation of slaves, but not the selling of slaves already in the US. In 1816, a movement, the American Colonization Society, started to repatriate enslaved people back to Africa and to establish the colony of Liberia. Many African American enslaved people from Virginia and North Carolina sailed from Norfolk to Liberia.

In 1845, Norfolk city was incorporated, and by 1850 it had grown again to 15,000 people. During the Civil War the submarine, the CSS Virginia, was built in Norfolk shipyards by the Confederacy. The subsequent engagement between the CSS Virginia and the USS Monitor was a stalemate.

In 1907, the Jamestown Exhibition was held in Sewell's Point, Norfolk, celebrating the landing of Virginia colonists at Jamestown 300 years before.



Pocahontas and Capt. John Smith's ship medal from Jamestown Exhibition

Marketing the Norfolk Half Dollar.

In 1736, Norfolk changed their form of government. In 1936 the city fathers thought that the United States should celebrate the 200th Anniversary of this obscure change in their form of government. Congress, fed up with silly commemoratives, said they would authorize a medal. But the promoters knew that only a coin would sell. Finally, in 1937 city representatives got Congress to

authorize 25,000 commemorative half dollars, despite the fact that the anniversary had already passed!

F.E. Twin was manager of the Norfolk Advertising Board at the Norfolk Association of Commerce. This was the body that marketed the coin, and Twin did it well. There was some resistance to buying a coin that featured a British crown (on the mace). But Twin turned it into his advantage by using the Hollywood approach of "any publicity is good publicity".

He took out a full page advertisement discussing this in the Numismatist saying Norfolk was the only city in the United States with a mace, originally presented in 1754 by Dinwiddie. Twin called the design "unusually attractive" and called attention also to the fact that it was minted 1937 but had a date of 1936. He advertised it extensively and its price was low at \$1.50. He repeatedly predicted that it would soon jump in value to \$3.00. Ultimately 8,077 of the 25,000 coins were returned to the Philadelphia mint for melting, leaving 16,936 to reach the public.

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BATTLE OF ANTIETAM 75TH ANNIVERSARY 1937 COMMEM \$1/2. McCLELLAN & LEE/BURNSIDE BRIDGE. 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS NGC MS 65

1305

CHAPTER FOUR

Three Civil War Commemoratives

CC46 Antietam 75th Anniversary.

Finally, something worth commemorating.

Background.

This coin memorialized the huge loss of life at the 1862 Battle of Antietam.

The coin.

The obverse of the coin shows jugate (conjoined) busts of Major General George McClellan in the background, and Lieutenant General Robert E. Lee in the foreground. Sculptor William Marks Simpson, a lover of epigraphy, placed their names below the busts, as well as three stars in the right legend for Lee's rank and two stars in the left legend for McClellan's rank. He also forces further required lettering onto the obverse - the legends UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, HALF DOLLAR, and the inscriptions IN GOD WE TRUST, LIBERTY, and Simpson's monogram WMS to the right of Lee's shoulder.

The reverse shows the famous Burnside Bridge, key to the strategic high ground overlooking the town of Sharpsburg, Maryland. Beneath it Simpson inscribes, THE BURNSIDE BRIDGE. SEPTEMBER 17 1862 and the required E PLURIBUS UNUM above it. The crowded legend reads SEVENTY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY BATTLE OF ANTIETAM 1937. The bridge is most artistic, but as usual Simpson spoils it by words crowded into every available nook and cranny. He does the same on the obverse.

Coin production

Park W.T. Loy was chairman of the Washington County Historical Society of Hagerstown, MD, and Secretary of the US Antietam Celebration Commission in Hagerstown. Both groups organized a National Antietam Commemoration in Hagerstown. Democratic Senator Millard Tydings pushed the commemorative coin bill through congress to strike 50,000 coins which were sold for \$1.65 to include postage. At the time it was called the Lee-McClellan commemorative half dollar.

The Commission gave the first specimen to President Franklin Roosevelt in August 1937. Celebrations were held on September 4th – 17th, 1937. Only 18,000 coins sold, the remaining 32,000 were returned to the Philadelphia mint for melting. They sold most pieces to numismatists rather than locally.

After the 1936 commemorative excesses when Congress approved 16 different coins, they only approved two (Antietam and Roanoke) in 1937. The Historical Society and Antietam Commission together published that they wanted to avoid speculators. Fortunately, after the 1936 excesses, speculators desisted.

History of Battle of Antietam

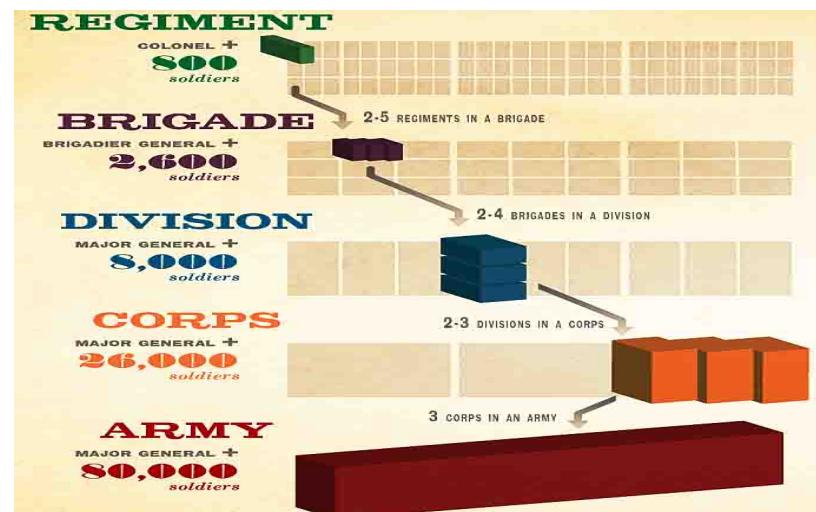
After the American Revolution, the American Civil War (1861 to 1865) was the most important event in American history. Remembered with much romance and affection by generations of collectors and historians, it was actually appalling and repugnant. Battles killed 360,000 of the 2,500,000 men in the Union army and 258,000 of the 1,000,000 in the confederate army. For every three soldiers killed in battle, five died from disease. 500,000 were maimed. 25% of soldiers who went to war never returned home (likely from post-traumatic stress disorder). 7.5% of the entire US male population were killed or maimed.

Northerners (the Union) thought it would quickly be over and that Southerners (the Confederacy) would easily be defeated. What a gruesome mistake!

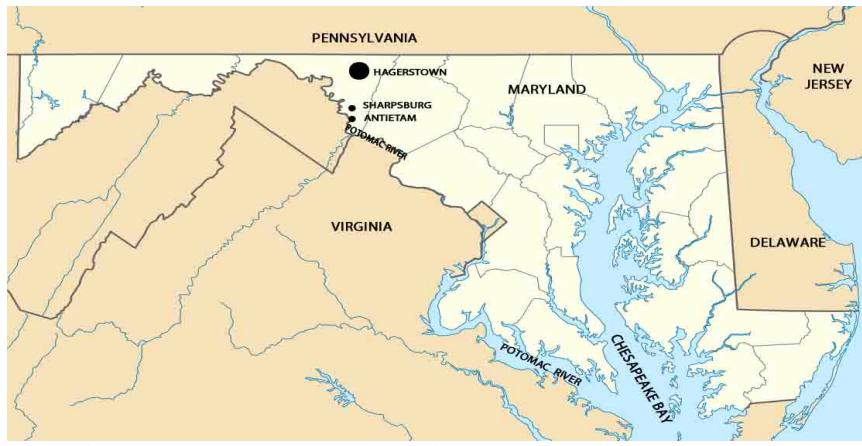
In July 1861 the Union fought the first battle of Bull Run (also called Manassas). Many civilians took their picnic baskets for the 25-mile carriage ride from Washington to be spectators of the battle. But Union forces were utterly defeated and spectators got caught up in their panic-stricken retreat.

Today many think of the South as being technologically inferior. But their officers were better trained, and they had a large complement of brilliant generals. Southerners were far more accustomed to horses. Their cavalries easily outmaneuvered the North's, and acted as vital communications arms of the Southern army. This, together with their huge cotton output (called "white gold"), persuaded the British to support the Confederates early in the civil war.

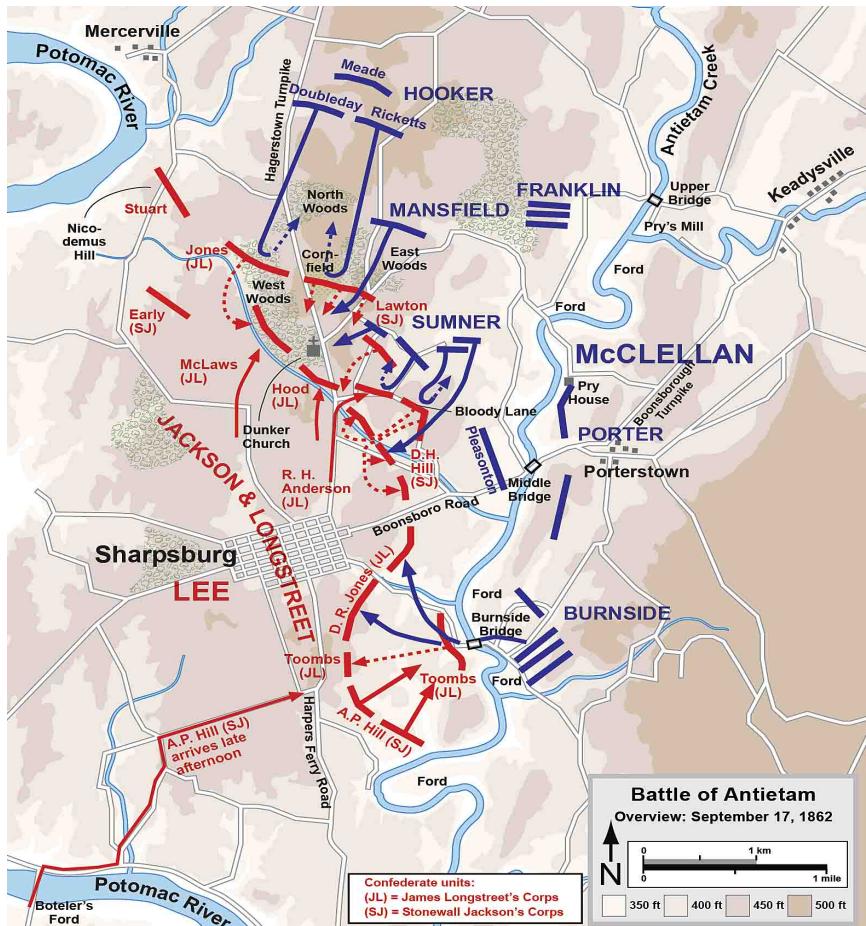
Early civil war engagements resulted in a truly embarrassing number of Confederate victories. On September 4th, 1862, relatively early in the war, Confederate General Robert E. Lee crossed the Potomac into the North. McClellan's army of the Potomac with six corps (see below) chased Lee. They met near the town of Sharpsburg, Maryland. (Confusingly the Union had Major Generals leading corps and armies, but the Confederates had Major Generals leading corps and Lieutenant Generals leading armies).



Organization of Civil War Armies



Map of Maryland showing location of Hagerstown, Sharpsburg & Antietam



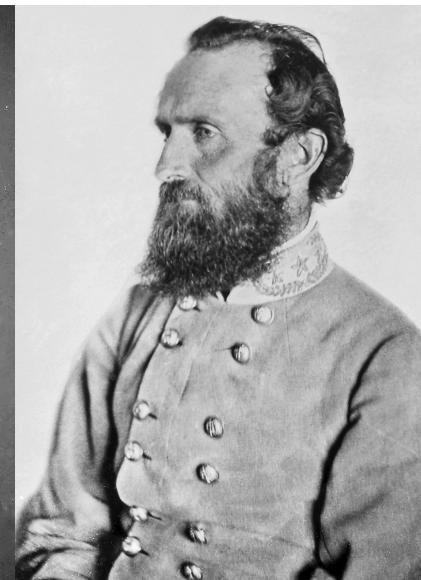
Battle lines of Antietam

When they met in Sharpsburg on September 15th, 1862, McClellan had 87,000 men, and Lee had 38,000. But McClellan mistakenly thought Lee had 100,000. A fatally cautious man, McClellan delayed attacking. This gave the Confederates time to dig in and await more arrivals.

Lee drew up west of Antietam Creek. McClellan knew that the southern two bridges were close to the Confederates' dug in positions. But the northern bridge was two miles away from Lee, so he planned on attacking Lee by crossing the northern bridge. Early in the morning Union Major General Hooker's division of 8,600 fought Confederate Lt. General Stonewall Jackson's division of 7,700, who were well dug in. A cornfield saw a tactical change of possession fifteen times and a bewildering number of generals and their troops fought to no great advantage during the morning with 13,000 grisly casualties!



Union Maj. Gen. Hooker



CSA Lt. Gen. Stonewall Jackson



The Bloody Cornfield

At midday Union Brigadier William French confronted Confederate Major General D.J. Hill's division, which was well protected along a sunken road. But a Union Colonel took a knoll overlooking the straight sunken road which allowed the Union to give enfilade fire (fire directed along a straight line) into the road. The road became a deathtrap. There were 3,000 Union and 2,600 Confederate casualties there resulting in the name Bloody Lane.



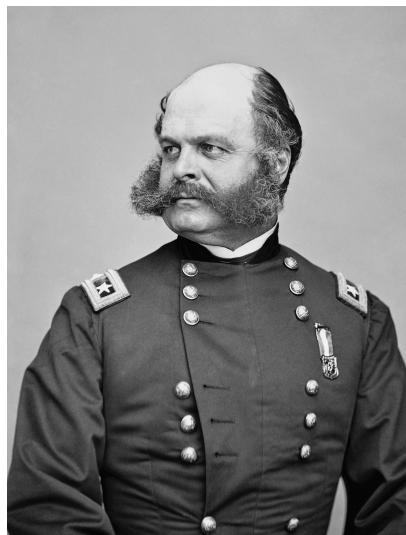
CSA dead on Bloody Lane Alex Gardner photo

In the afternoon, Major General Burnside was told to conduct a diversionary attack on the southern bridge called Rohrbach's bridge, to deflect attention away from McClellan's intended northern attack. Burnside sent wave after wave of soldiers to their death by Confederate sharpshooters and artillery on the forested hills on the other side of Antietam creek. Burnside finally took the narrow bridge, but his officers forgot to take ammunition with them. By then, Confederate Gen. A.P. Hill arrived to support Lee. Burnside spent the ensuing hours just guarding the bridge. The bridge was later renamed Burnside Bridge.

The next day, September 18th, Lee withdrew. The Union had 12,410 casualties, and 2,108 dead. The Confederate had 10,316 casualties and 1,546 dead. In total there were 23,000 casualties including 3,654 dead, though subsequently those missing, or dying from their wounds increased the dead to 7,645. These numbers were unprecedented for a single day of fighting. The entire nation was astounded at the carnage. It remains the bloodiest single day's battle in US history.



Photo of Burnside Bridge taken after the battle showing CSA advantage

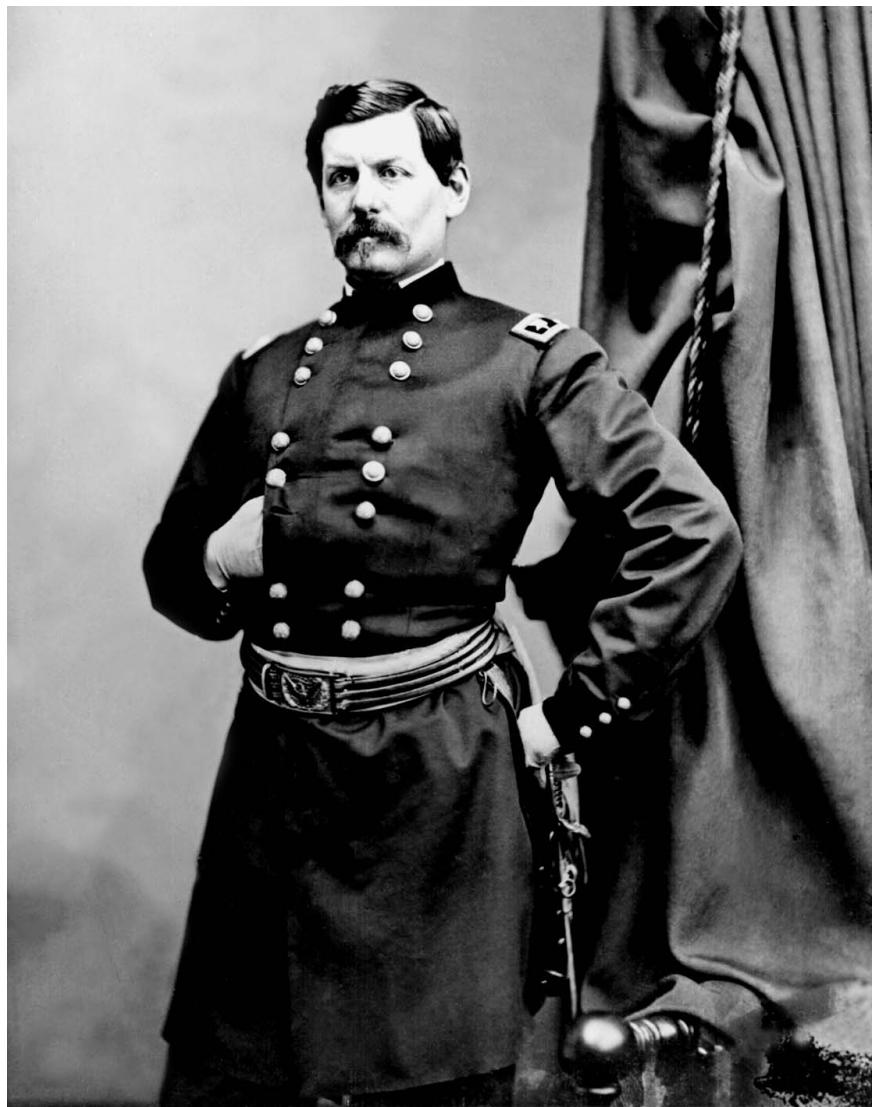


Union Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside

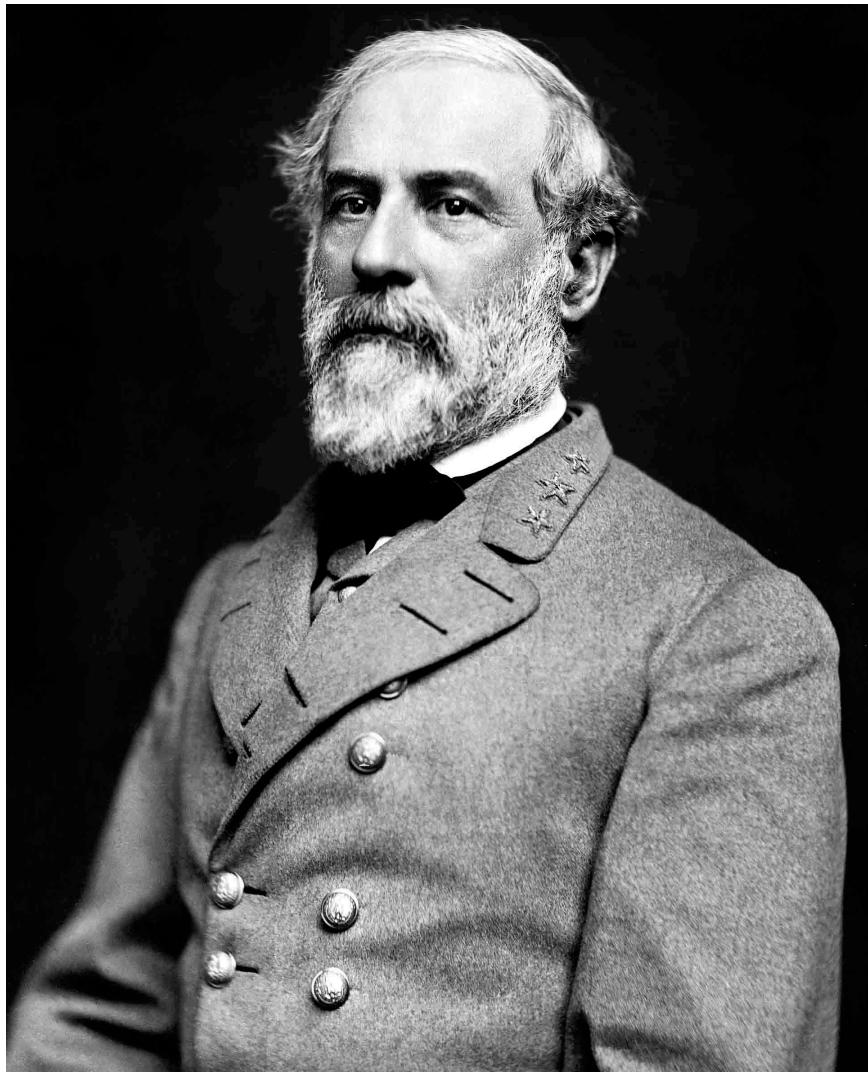


Confederate Lt. Gen. A P Hill

The result was a draw. But Lincoln had been hankering for a victory for a long time, and was by now desperate. So he declared the battle a victory, and five days after the battle issued the Emancipation Proclamation. As he said “my paramount object is to save the union and it is not either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the union without freeing any slave, I would do it. If I could save it by freeing all slaves, I would do it. If I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would do that”.



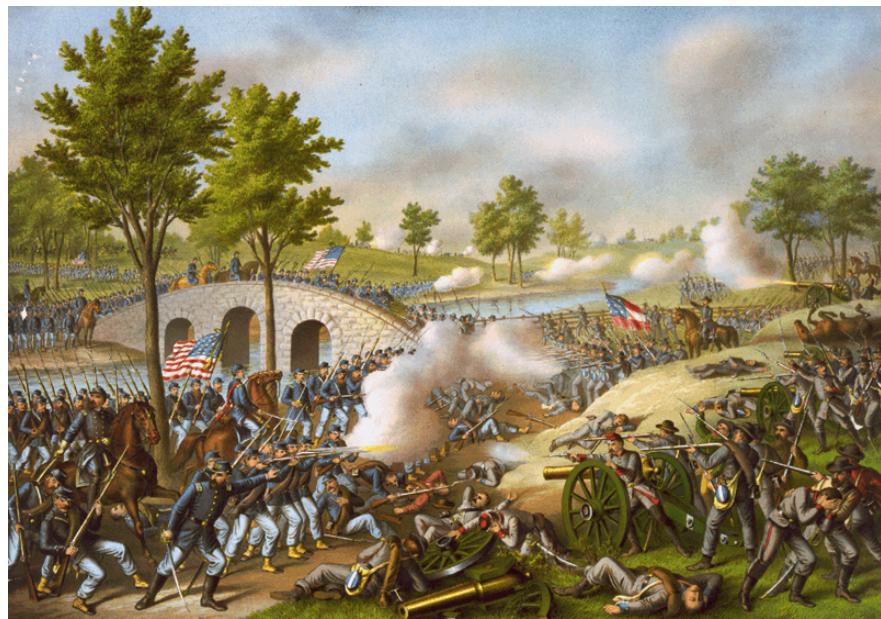
Union Major General George McClellan head of the Army of the Potomac



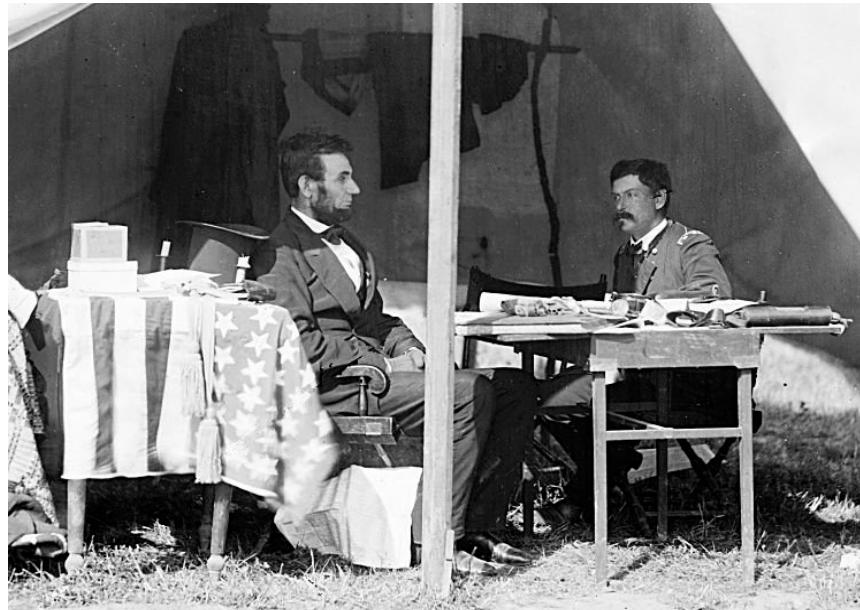
Confederate Lieutenant General Robert E. Lee

A point of interest on the dual naming of so many Civil War battles: Northerners tended to name battles after natural elements in the countryside, so this battle was called Antietam after Antietam Creek. Southerners tended to name them after local towns so called it the battle of Sharpsburg.

Lincoln was not pleased. The loss of life and injury was truly disgusting. He did not have his victory. Lee had advanced to confront McClellan in Union territory with 38,000 against 87,000 men, but McClellan still could not win. Lincoln felt McClellan was too timid, too cautious, and disorganized. The two corps McClellan kept in reserve were larger than Lee's entire army! Most importantly, McClellan did not pursue Lee across the Potomac.



Burnside Bridge painting as seen from the Confederate side



Lincoln meets McClellan after Battle of Antietam. Alex Gardner Photo

McClellan had been made general-in-chief of all the Union armies in November 1861. Privately he had ridiculed Lincoln, calling him a “well-meaning baboon”, a “gorilla”. Later that month when Lincoln visited him at his home, McClellan

made him wait for 30 minutes, then had his servants tell Lincoln that he had gone to bed and could not receive him. To be fair Lincoln was a Republican and McClellan was a Democrat, but such behavior even today would be considered exceedingly obnoxious.

In March 1862 Lincoln had relieved McClellan as general-in-chief, hoping he might do better as a field general alone. But after his failure in September at the Battle of Antietam, Lincoln relieved McClellan of his command a second time for good, replacing him with Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside in November 1862. (Though after his stunning defeat at Fredericksburg in December 1862, Burnside was also dismissed). The arrogant McClellan remained a general in name, but saw no further active service.

In 1864, McClellan ran against Lincoln as the Northern Democratic candidate for President, resigning his commission on election day in November 1864. Lincoln won with 212 to 21 Electoral College votes. McClellan spent years conceitedly defending his war actions in his memoirs, which historians agree were smug and self-defeating. Wikipedia says “Doris Kearns Goodwin claims that a review of his personal correspondence during the war reveals a tendency for self-aggrandizement and unwarranted self-congratulation”.

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GETTYSBURG 75TH ANNIVERSARY 1936 COMMEM \$1/2. UNION & CSA VETERAN/SHIELDS. 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS NGC MS 65

1306

Three Civil War Commemoratives – CC44. 75th Anniversary of Battle of Gettysburg - also worth commemorating.

The coin.

The obverse of the coin shows the jugate (conjoined) heads of a Union soldier in the foreground and a Confederate soldier in the background. The legend in a ring around reads UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BLUE AND GRAY REUNION. An inscription reads E PLURIBUS UNUM, and an innocuous inner legend reads LIBERTY. Cornelius Vermeule (see references) praises the design, saying the busts of the two soldiers “present convincing types, timeless in advancing age”.

The reverse shows the Union shield on the left and Confederate shield on the right, with fasces between with a double headed axe, symbolizing governmental power. Surrounding them is an open wreath with oak leaves on the left for peace, and laurel leaves on the right for victory. An inscription reads IN GOD WE TRUST, 1936. An inner legend reads HALF DOLLAR. In a ring the outer legend reads 1863 75TH ANNIVERSARY 1938 BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG.

Introducing the coin.

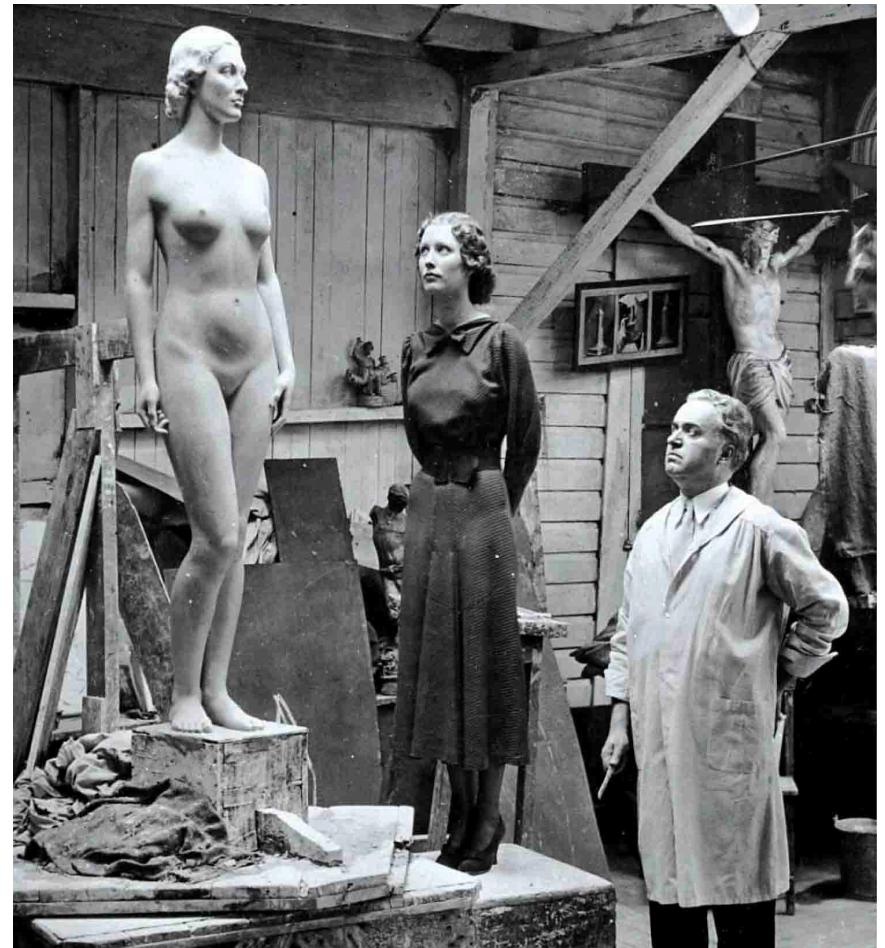
In 1935, Pennsylvania created a commission for the 75th anniversary reunion of Gettysburg in 1938. The Commission got the coin approved in 1936 for a mintage of 50,000. But they did not contact the sculptor, Vittor, until March of 1937. Thus this coin is dated 1936, struck in 1937, and for an event in 1938!

Paul Roy, the Executive Secretary of the Commission, mailed a big lie to collectors that the coin was oversubscribed. They sold for \$1.65 (which included postage) before and during the reunion. After the reunion was over, the Commission gave the remainder to the American Legion who increased the price to \$2.65, thinking they might fool people into thinking they were rare. The Legion still could not sell them all so had to return 23,100 to the Philadelphia mint for melting.

The Designer and Sculptor

Although the coin was authorized in 1936, the Philadelphia sculptor Frank Vittor was not contacted until 1937. Photographs of his sketch models were approved by the Federal Commission of Fine Arts with some minor changes. Vittor was an Italian who studied in Milan then under Rodin in Paris. The brilliant Beaux-Arts architect Stanford White brought him to New York City on his staff when he was 18 years old. Two weeks later White was murdered by a mentally ill millionaire Harry Thaw, as White had had sex with his wife at the age of 16. YouTube has an informative video on this (see references). This left Vittor stranded without money or language skills. Vittor set up a studio, met a girl who lived in Philadelphia, married her and moved there.

Vittor was famous for a statue of Charles Lindbergh, and a nude state of Henrietta Leaver, who was Miss America 1935. She had posed in a swimsuit, and finding the statue undraped, insisted on drapery. Vittor sought the opinion of art experts who all agreed the statue looked better undraped. Leaver asked sixty of her peers to judge; they also said the statue looked better undraped! Vittor later created bronzes of several US Presidents, Honus Wagner, Mark Twain and a 50-foot-high statue of Christopher Columbus in Pittsburgh.



**Vittor with Henrietta Leaver and her nude statue in 1935
(from Pittsburgh City Paper City Magazine Guide 2003).**

The 1938 Reunion – the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.

The reunion was scheduled for July 1st to 3rd, the exact dates of the battle. Twenty-five Gettysburg veterans and 1,800 other civil war veterans from both sides attended, many with attendants. Their ages ranged from 88 to supposedly 112! The Federal Government paid for their expenses.

A Lincoln impersonator gave the Gettysburg address on a platform on the original spot. On July 1st, Secretary of War, Harry Woodring, gave an address. On July 2nd, a three-mile-long parade and Marine Corps Band concert took place. On July 3rd, President Roosevelt addressed the crowd of 250,000 and opened the Eternal Light Peace Memorial with a perpetual flame.



Eternal Light Peace Memorial for 1938 final Blue and Gray Celebration.

Civil War reunions for the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic i.e. Union) started a year after the civil war ended, and took place yearly until 1949. The GAR's successor organization was the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Peak GAR membership was around 490,000 in 1890. The GAR advocated voting rights for African American Veterans, promoted patriotic education, lobbied Congress for veteran pensions and helped create Memorial Day.

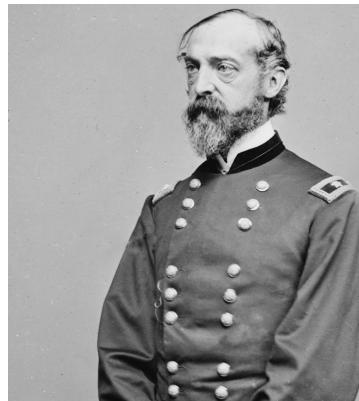
Civil War reunions for the UCV (United Confederate Veterans i.e. Confederacy) started in 1884, and took place intermittently until 1892 then yearly until 1942, with the exception of 1919 and 1933. The UCVs successor organizations were the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. 80,000 veterans and visitors would typically meet each year in UCV meetings in the 1890s.

The first "Blue and Gray" i.e. joint Confederate and Union meeting was in 1875 then sporadically until the last one in 1938 in Gettysburg.

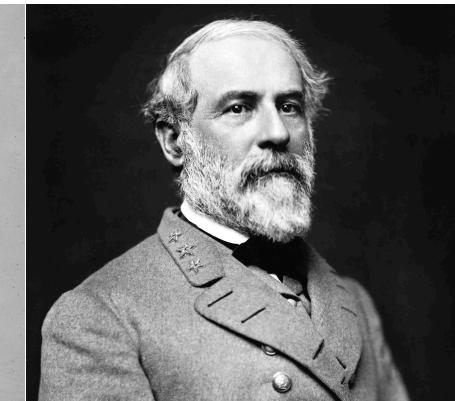
For a whole generation these encampments were one of the most meaningful parts of veterans' existence, combining remembrance, commemoration, sacrifice, friendships and bonds. GAR and UCV were also benevolent organizations with publications. Around 1903 to 1904, these organizations started to decline as the veterans died off. The last documented surviving veteran was a 14-year-old drummer boy in 1864, who died in 1956, after which the GAR dissolved.

The Battle of Gettysburg.

Gettysburg was the most important battle of the Civil War, and the end of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's second advance into Union territory. Union Major General Meade led the army of the Potomac against Lt. General Lee's Army of North Virginia. There were 50,000 casualties in the three-day battle.



Union Major General George G. Meade

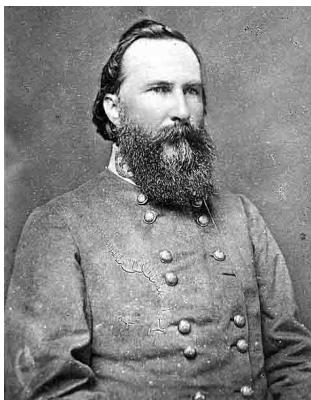


Confederate Lt. General Robert E. Lee

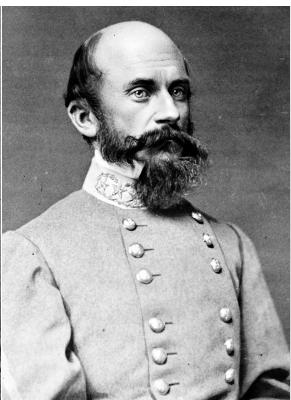
Lincoln had trouble with his four General-in-Chiefs. Winfield Scott was relieved of duty after multiple defeats in 1861. McClellan lasted from November 1861 to March 1862. After McClellan lost the peninsular campaign to capture Richmond in 1862, Lincoln replaced him as General-in-Chief with a war board run by Gen Halleck. (McClellan remained as a field general until his appalling performance at Antietam in September 1862, see last section). Finally, in March 1864 Grant became the pugnacious instrument of Lincoln's aims – to pursue Lee's armies and destroy Southern infrastructure.

Another Union disaster was the loss of the battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863, when Lee with 60,000 men attacked Union Major General Hooker with 134,000 men. Lee split his forces and handily defeated Hooker, losing 12,800 casualties to Hooker's 17,300. Before the battle the smart-ass Hooker said "My plans are perfect. May God have mercy on General Lee, for I will have none". It was at this battle that Gen. Lee lost Gen. Stonewall Jackson, who was mistakenly shot by friendly fire.

Lee decided a month later on a second invasion of the North reasoning that his troops could live off richer Northern farms, giving Virginia a rest, and also threaten Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia, upsetting Union plans. Confederate Gen. Lee's army of 72,000 had three corps under Lt. Generals Longstreet, Ewell and A.P. Hill, and a cavalry division under Major General J.E.B. Stuart. Union Gen. Hooker had over 100,000 men with seven infantry corps, a cavalry corps, and artillery reserves. However, fortunately, on June 28th, Hooker argued with Lincoln and Halleck, and offered to resign. Lincoln and Halleck were only too happy to accept, and replaced him with Meade.



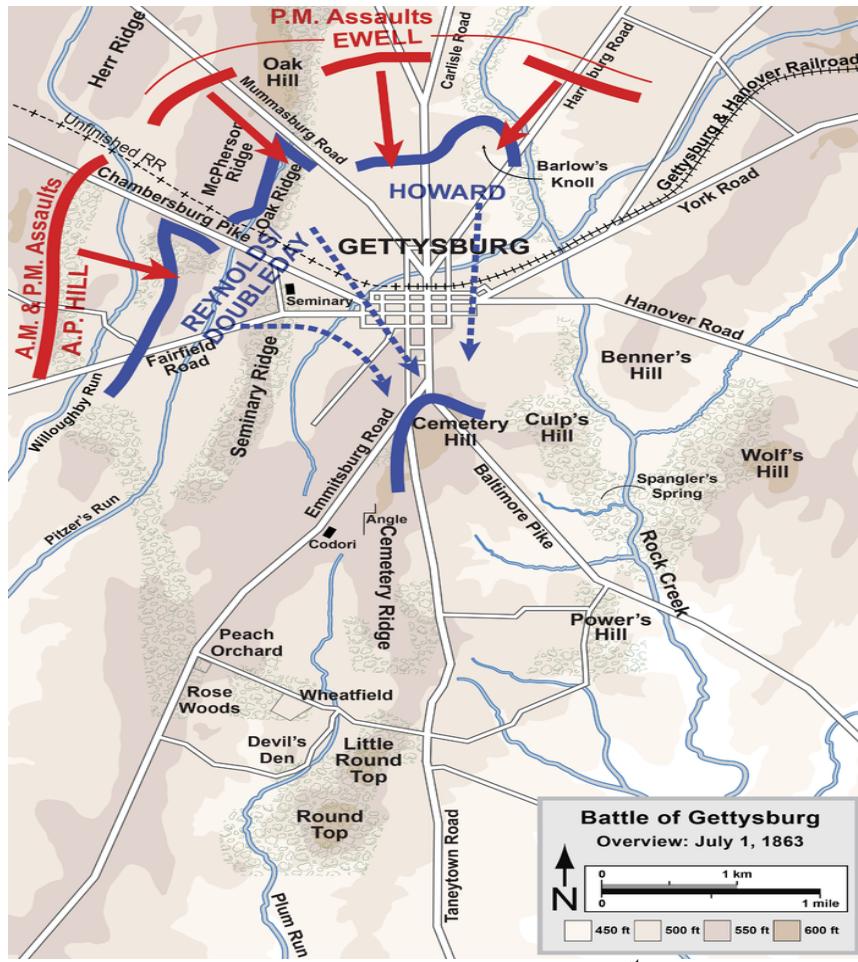
CSA Lt. General Longstreet



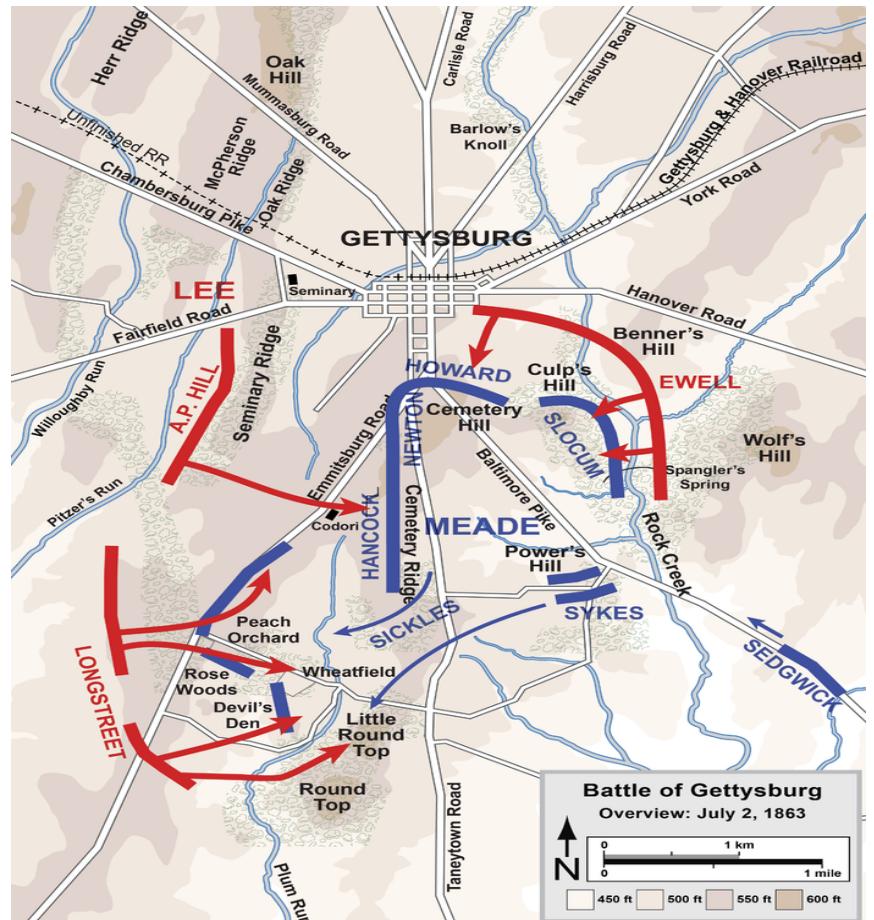
CSA Lt. General Ewell



CSA Lt. General AP Hill

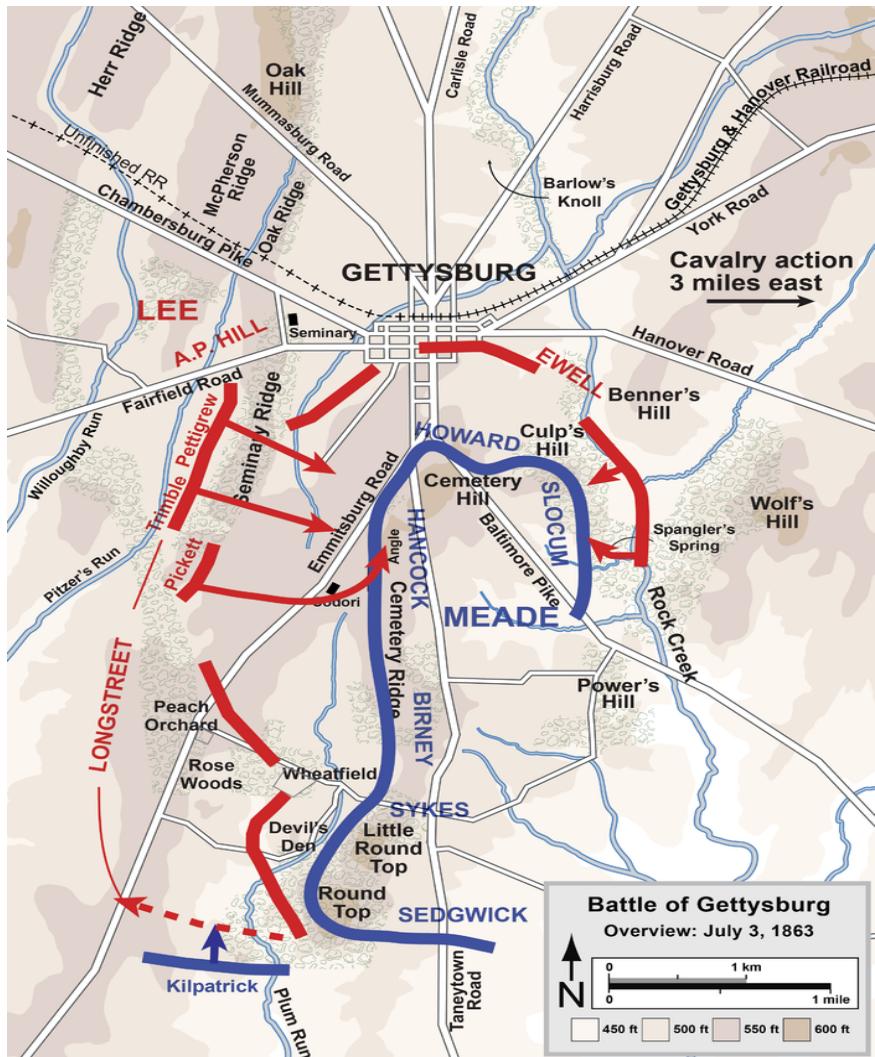


On June 30th, Lee's third Corps noticed Union cavalry in Gettysburg. The next day Lt. General A.P. Hill continued to reconnoiter despite Lee's instructions to wait for the full army to mass. Union cavalry laid defenses on three ridges west of Gettysburg: Herr Ridge, McPherson Ridge, and Seminary Ridge, anticipating the Confederates would attack that morning of 1st July. The plan was to establish infantry on three hills behind these ridges, where they could fall back. The hills were Cemetery Ridge, Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill, all south of Gettysburg. The CSA successfully pushed the Union army back from the three ridges to the three hills. But only about 30% of Union and Confederate men were engaged in fighting on July 1st.

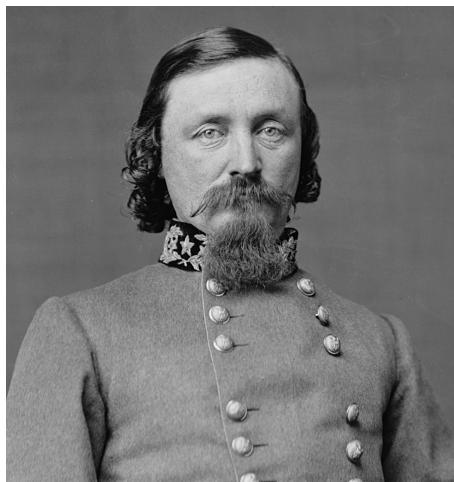


On July 2nd, most of the armies arrived by morning. The Union occupied strategic high ground on Cemetery Ridge, Cemetery Hill, and Culp's Hill. Lee attacked the unions left flank on cemetery Ridge, and right flank on Culp's Hill simultaneously. But his cavalry under JEB Stuart was still away so he had poor intelligence. Disobeying orders, Union Third Corps commander, Major General

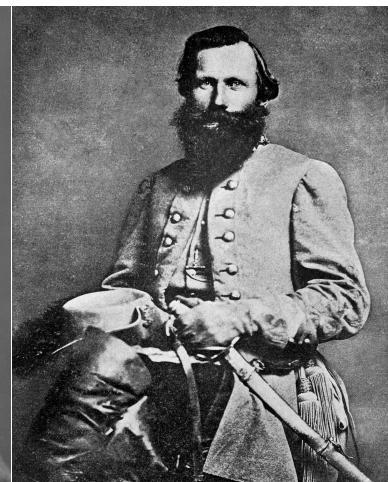
Sickles established an outpost from Cemetery Ridge in a peach orchard, creating an untenable position surrounded on three sides. This forced Meade to send 20,000 reinforcements. Another important strategic high point was Little Round Top south of Cemetery Ridge, which the Union defended desperately at one point by a bayonet charge under a Col. Joshua Chamberlain. The Union's right flank was pummeled by cannonade till 6 pm when CSA attacked unsuccessfully. Lee's supporters after the Civil War wanted to transfer the responsibility for the Confederate failure at Gettysburg from their hero Lee to Longstreet, saying that Longstreet delayed the attack unnecessarily. Most modern historians have since discounted this as Longstreet encountered difficulties in moving his troops that were unanticipated by Lee when he gave Longstreet his orders



On July 3rd, Lee had basically the same plan to attack the Union's high ground. After cannonade, Major General Pickett of Longstreet's First Corps was chosen to repeatedly charge the Union on Cemetery Ridge. The Union had correctly calculated that cannonade would precede an infantry charge. They had withheld fire to conserve munitions against the charge, leading the Confederates to think they had run out of munitions.



Major General George Pickett

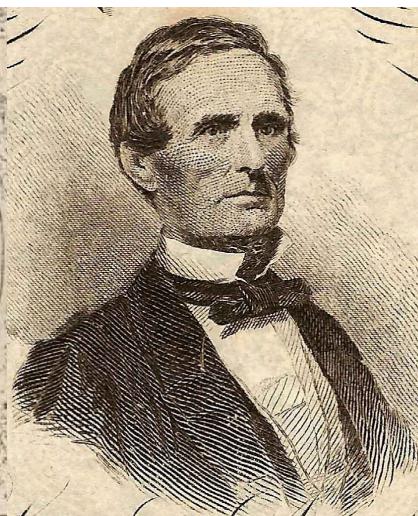


Cavalry Major General JEB Stuart

12,500 men repeatedly charged. Almost half were mown down by Union cannonade and infantry fire. A small break in the Union line at a point called "The Angle" was called the "High-Water mark of the Confederacy" i.e. the closest the South came to beating the Union. Pickett survived. The evening before, at a war council, Meade had predicted Lee would attack at that point.



Alexander Stephens from T-58 CSA note

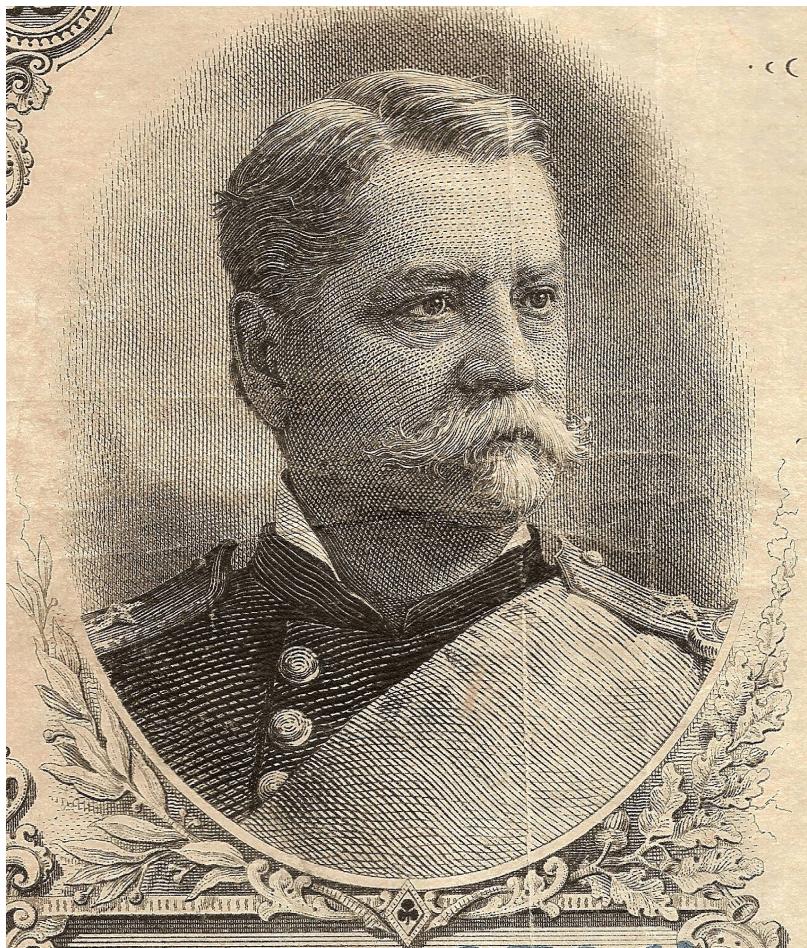


Jefferson Davis from T-57 CSA note

After three days of fighting there were around 50,000 casualties. On July 4th there was heavy rain. Each side buried their dead. In the evening Lee started his journey back to Virginia. Meade followed, but half-heartedly – despite admonishments from Lincoln and Halleck to do so, leaving Lee's army intact.

Confederate Vice-President Alexander Stephens, had already been told by President Jefferson Davis (see images opposite) to make peace overtures, but Lincoln refused to allow Stephens to enter Union lines.

Lee had been failed by JEB Stuart, basically the chief of intelligence and communications; and by Ewell for not seizing Cemetery Hill on July 1st. It is also thought that Lee may have had a heart attack a few months before the battle, in March because his doctors diagnosed him with pericarditis. After Gettysburg Lee made no further strategic offensives in the North, but it took almost two more years for the war to close.



Major General Hancock vignette from 1886 \$2 Silver Certificate

Meade had asked Hancock, his favorite subordinate, before the battle whether the terrain was good for a battle. Hancock said absolutely yes. Meade felt secure that the high ground he occupied would be good position from which to fight Lee. Lee, the golden boy, who seemed to have the magic touch failed to perform. Why did he not fight a rearguard action? Longstreet actually told Lee he should select a ground more favorable and that this was not a good battleground in which to engage. But Lee, perhaps feeling that his army's high morale was number one, chose to attack from a disadvantaged position. Historians say Meade simply "out-generated" Lee. However, Meade's major problem was that he refused to chase Lee. Could it be that he felt a certain noblesse oblige, which meant not finishing off his opponent?



Monument to JEB Stuart, in Richmond, Virginia
? soon to be demolished for political correctness.

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STONE MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL 1925 COMMEM \$1/2. LEE & JACKSON/EAGLE. 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS ANACS MS 61

41

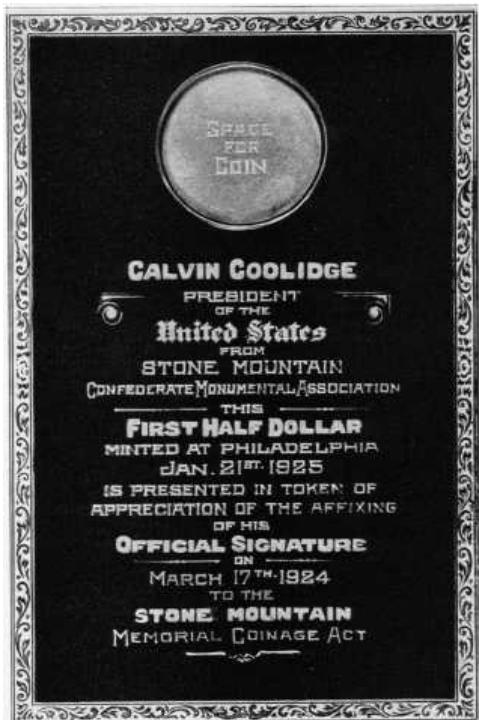
Three Civil War Commemoratives –

CC14 Stone Mountain Memorial, a celebration of the Confederacy!

The coin.

The obverse shows Generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson on horseback, with 13 stars representing the 13 states claimed by the Confederacy. By the horse's tail is GB for Gutzon Borglum, the coin's designer. The original desire was to feature Jefferson Davis, and Generals Lee and Jackson (and their respective horses Blackjack, Traveler, and Little Sorrel). But the design was reduced to exclude Davis perhaps for artistic reasons. The legend is IN GOD WE TRUST, and the inscription is STONE MOUNTAIN 1925.

The reverse shows an eagle perched on a granite outcrop, with the inscription MEMORIAL TO THE VALOR OF THE SOLDIER OF THE SOUTH, with LIBERTY below. The legend reads UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, E PLURIBUS UNUM, HALF DOLLAR. It might just as well have read CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA! There are 35 faint stars in the field supposedly representing the 35 states in the Union. Originally the idea for the reverse design was an image of President Harding, who had died in 1924. This would appeal to Northerners. But it was later reduced to mentioning him by name, then dropped altogether.



First Strike given to Coolidge.



Borglum's original plaster casts.

History of the Stone Mountain Carving

The story of the Stone Mountain Commemorative is complex with multiple players. Of course today such a coin would never have happened because it celebrated the confederacy.



Stone Mountain is 17 miles East North East from Atlanta.

In 1915, Gutzon Borglum (1867-1941) was asked to make a twenty-foot square monument to Robert E. Lee on Stone Mountain, a 1683' high granite projection from a plain. Borglum replied that would be like sticking a postage stamp on a barn. But, energized, he drew up plans for a 200' by 1,300' carving.



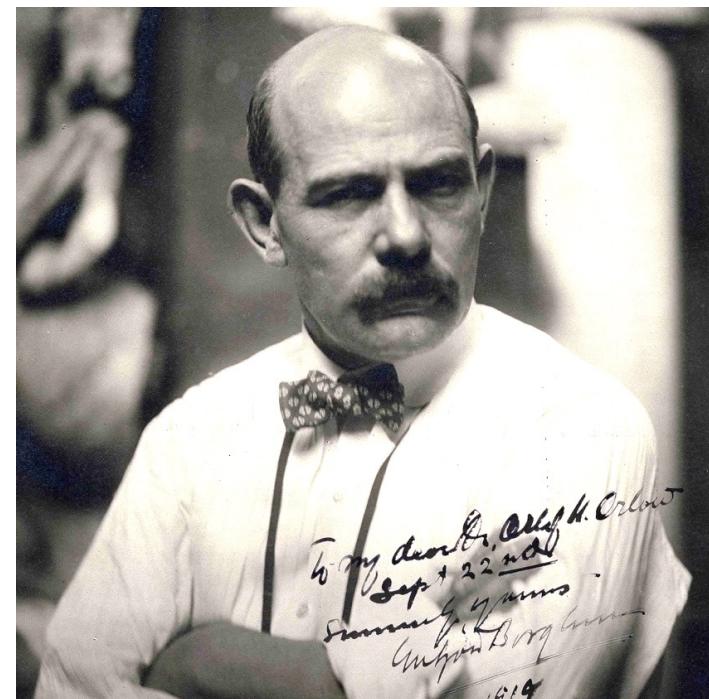
One of Borglum's original designs for the mountainside

Borglum's father was a Danish Mormon with two wives. Borglum married Elizabeth Putnam, a musician, artist and his teacher, in 1889. She was 19 years his senior. They divorced in 1909.

Borglum was also a member of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK), and one of six Knights who sat on the Koncilium, who elected Hiram Evans to be Imperial Wizard in 1923. But publicly Borglum denied this. Hiram Evans was a master of marketing and enlarged the KKK to over 4 million members by 1925, the heyday of the second KKK which lasted from 1915 to 1944. Even President Harry Truman was said to have joined briefly in 1924. The first KKK was from 1865 to 1871. The third KKK started in 1946 and continues to this day with around 3,000 members.

Stone Mountain was bought by the Venable brothers as a rock quarry in 1887. They were involved in the KKK, and they allowed a cross burning there in 1915, after the 1915 movie "Birth of a Nation" which inspired a rebirth of the KKK. In 1923, they gave the KKK an easement to use the mountain. The brothers gave a twelve-year lease to Borglum in 1917 to complete what he wanted on the mountain – they figured it was going to be a Confederate statement.

It was C. Helen Plane, aged 85, of the Atlanta Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, who fought for the Stone Mountain Memorial commemorating her husband and soldiers who died during the Civil War. Plane even suggested the KKK be included in the sculpture. Borglum wisely declined!



Gutzon Borglum photograph.

The Stone Mountain sculpture started in 1917. The First World War (1914-1918) interrupted it, then it resumed in 1923.

Borglum's plan for Stone Mountain was three-fold. First were Confederate figures carved into the rock, spanning a large area with many figures. Second was a Memorial Hall drilled into the rock at the base of the mountain. Third was a very large Amphitheater. Borglum estimated the cost at \$3.5 million. By 1924, Borglum had finished the upper half of Robert E. Lee's figure.

The State of Georgia started the Stone Mountain Confederate Monument Association (SMCMA). SMCMA president, Hollins N. Randolph met with President Calvin Coolidge who was receptive to the idea of a commemorative coin program for the memorial. Today, any such celebration of the Confederacy would be unthinkable. Congress legislated 5 million coins be allowed. They stated in their approval of the coin "Carving Stone Mountain, a monument to the valor of the soldiers of the South (who inspired their descendants in the Spanish-American and World Wars) and a memory of Warren Harding....".

The Civil War was not mentioned even though that is what the Stone Mountain commemorative half dollar was all about! Mentioning Harding was to placate Northerners who objected to idolizing the Confederacy, and was probably the only reason Congress approved the coin.

Borglum started work in 1923, but by 1925 with only three years remaining on the lease he was incensed that the coin sale profits were frittered away by lavish spending by Randolph, President of SMCMA. Borglum spent most of his time in 1924 at his studio in Stamford, CT with only occasional visits to the site. This angered the SMCMA. During this time, he designed the Stone Mountain half dollar. Tempers flared, but Borglum gave as good as he got and thought that any publicity had to be good publicity. Or was it?

Borglum's designs showed Harding on the reverse, and Lee, Jackson and Davis on the obverse. The Congressional Commission on Fine Arts condemned them. Borglum made several changes but each was rejected. Ultimately they eliminated Harding's image on the reverse, then left his name, then removed it.

The SMCMA had proposed central figures only, not Borglum's panorama design. They cancelled the Memorial Hall and Amphitheater. In addition, SMCMA had defaulted on payment: they only paid \$35,000 of \$125,000 to Borglum. Borglum went to Washington, DC for a press conference with members of Congress.

At this point in 1925 SMCMA fired Borglum and hired a second sculptor Augustus Lukeman (1872-1935), who destroyed Borglum's work and started afresh. Incensed, Borglum destroyed all his models and drawings. SMCMA then tried unsuccessfully to have him arrested for this, damaging their reputation.



Augustus Lukeman 2nd Sculptor



Lukeman 1st World War Monument

Lukeman was hired at \$15,000 a year (around \$200,000 a year in 2017 dollars). But he could not finish the project by 1928, which was the cutoff date for the Venable brother's lease. The mountain then reverted to the Venable brothers. (Lukeman also designed the Boone Bicentennial half dollar).

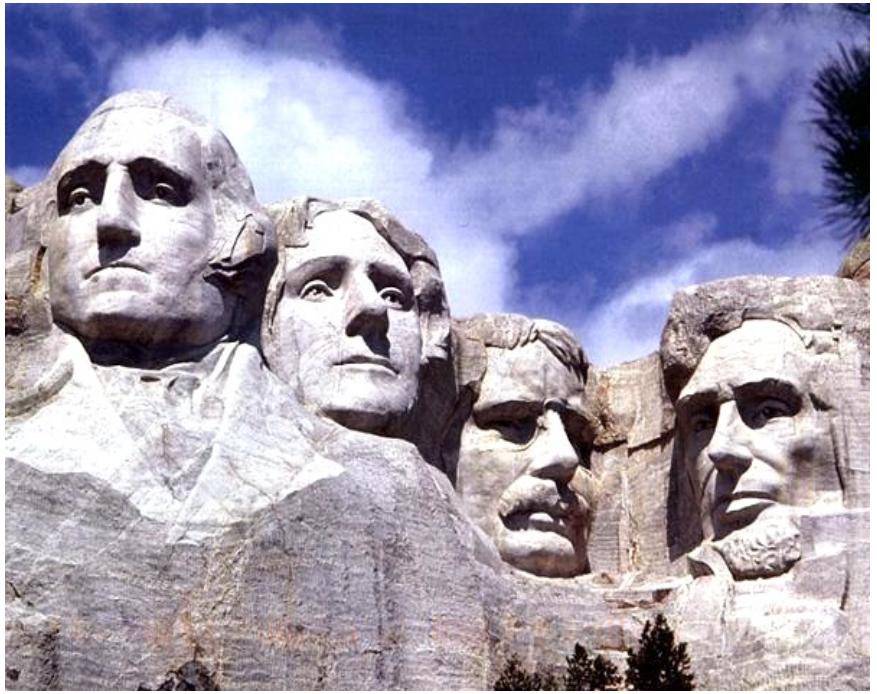
After all this in 1927 the Atlanta chapter of the UDC (United Daughters of the Confederacy) accused SMCMA of wrongfully firing Borglum and wasting between a quarter and a half million dollars. An outside audit showed that only 27% of funds raised went to carving the mountainside and most of the excesses claimed by Borglum were indeed true. SMCMA President Randolph resigned.

After Borglum was fired he transferred to Mount Rushmore, in the Dakotas, for another mega project. He worked there from 1927 to 1941. In 1941 he died from a pulmonary embolism following a prostatectomy.

Borglum had been hired as a sculptor, but he also spouted off too much and got in over his head in politics and publicity. He also probably knowingly underestimated costs for the largest sculpture of all time. The SMCMA disliked all of this. But its president, Randolph, did overspend money for his personal pleasure.

From 1958 to 1961 Georgia Governor Marvin Griffin bought the mountain and its surrounding 3,000+ acres. Georgia also started the Stone Mountain Memorial Association as a state authority. They hired a third sculptor Walter Hancock, who worked from 1964 to 1972. An official dedication was held in 1970. Sculptor Hancock directed Roy Faulkner, who had no artistic training, to execute artistry using thermo-jet torches, which could heat rock up to 4,000°. This made the rock

expand and caused it to flake off. One man could now do in a day what had taken 300 men to do in Borglum's time.



Borglum's Mount Rushmore Monument

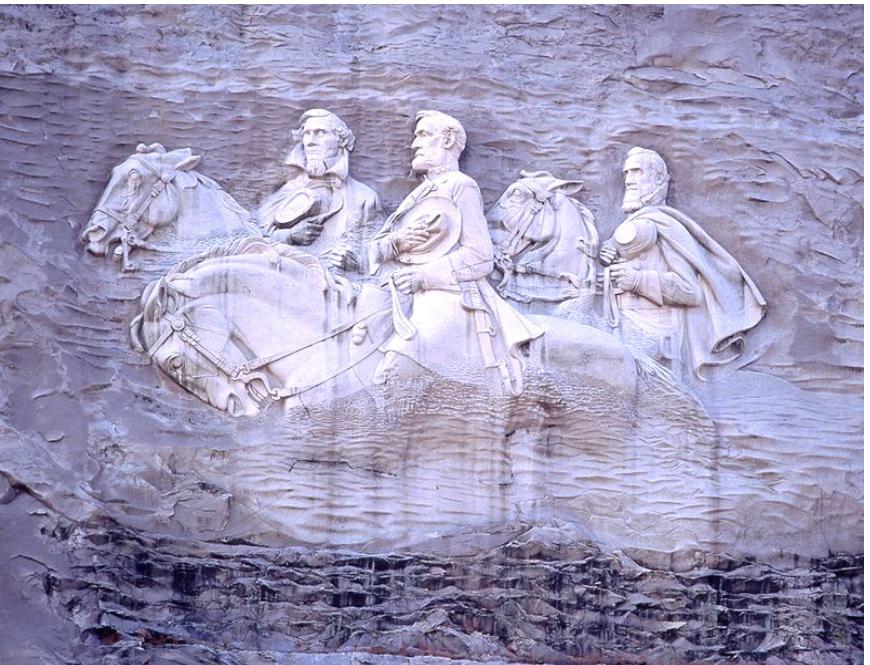


Walter Hancock 3rd Sculptor



St. Louis Zoo Sculpture by Hancock

The Lukeman-Hancock bas-relief is 190 feet by 90 feet i.e. around a third of an acre. It is recessed 42 feet. It is the largest bas relief in the world.



Final version of Stone Mountain Sculpture completed 1972



View of Stone Mountain Carving from Park.

Marketing the coin.

In 1924, Congress authorized 5 million half dollar coins be struck. The first coins were struck January 21st, 1925, to mark the anniversary of Stonewall Jackson's birth on January 21st, 1824. The first coin was set in a gold frame, shown at the top of this section, and given to President Calvin Coolidge. In 1925, only 2.31 million were struck and distributed to 3,000 banks by the Federal Reserve for sale at \$1.

Northerners did not like the coin because it honored the Confederacy. Collectors felt that 5 million was an absurd number to authorize, and disliked the bumpy rather than smooth flat fields. 1.3 million coins sold, the remainder were remelted. This makes it the second most common classic commemorative. The Columbian half dollar comes first with 1.5 million coins distributed.

Some coins were counter-struck on the reverse mostly for sale at increased prices. The counter-strokes included:

- UDC for United Daughters of the Confederacy
- States e.g. ARK for Arkansas
- Numbers which may be membership or Chapter numbers of the Stone Mountain Confederate Monument Association.
- GL or SL, originally thought mistakenly to be State Legislature, or General Legislature, but now known to be Gold Lavalier, and Silver Lavalier. These were given to women county winners and runners-up for selling the coins. A Lavalier was originally a pendant suspended from a necklace. But in America it became part of the fraternity system

How long will the Stone Mountain carving remain? There is modern day political pressure to erase all historical reminders of the Confederacy. But it is certainly not simple as pulling down a 20' statue – this bas-relief covers a third of an acre of granite!

There are 700 to 1,000 Confederate monuments and statues in 31 states both North and South. Of these, 60 have been removed since 2015. In addition, schools, roads, graveyards, state holidays, military bases, and cities are named in honor of Confederate people and events.

A 2017 National Public Radio poll showed that 62% of American adults felt Confederate monuments should remain, 27% felt they should be removed, and the remainder were unsure.

For Democrats 44% favored remain versus 47% removal. For Republicans 86% favored remain versus 6% removal. For African Americans 44% favored remain versus 40% removal.

When my wife and I visited Russia in the 1970s with a tour group, I asked our tour guide about Stalin. She said "who is Stalin?". I replied that Stalingrad had been named after him, and that he led Russia for many years. She replied that I must be mistaken, she had never heard of Stalin, and there was never a city named Stalingrad. But the significant part of the story is that I appealed to the other

English members of the group, who replied in so many words "perhaps she is right". They certainly did not want to rock the boat. Did they believe her?

Some believe that these reminders of the Confederacy should be removed, others that they should stay. As Santayana once said, "those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it".



Hiram Evans KKK Grand Wizard of the second KKK who led a march on Washington in 1925 and wanted to change the KKK into a political party.

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US COMMEMORATIVE \$ 1/2, SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA PACIFIC EXPO 1936 D. FEMALE / EXPO BUILDING 30.6MM, 12.5 GRAMS UNC

1184

CHAPTER FIVE

Four Expositions

CC28 California-Pacific Exposition, a beautiful design for a minor exposition.

The coin.

The obverse shows an amazing number of different symbolic devices. Broadly speaking it is taken from the California State Seal, which was designed by men with classical education, hence all the symbolism.



California State Seal.

Just before we address all the different gods here is a list of who we will be talking about, then each device will be listed.

Greek God	Roman Name	Type of God
Athena	Minerva	Goddess of Wisdom and War
Zeus	Jupiter	King of Gods and God of Sky
Poseidon	Neptune	God of Sea

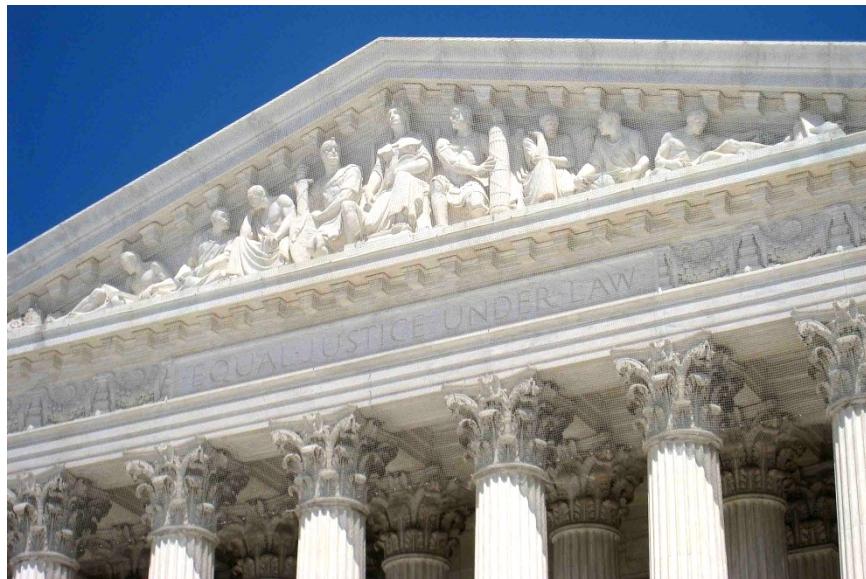
1. Minerva (Athena in Greek) is sitting holding a spear in her right arm. She was born as an adult from the brain of Zeus (Jupiter in Rome), King of Gods. This was a metaphor for California being made 31st state without going through territorial status first.
2. Athena holds a shield on which is the head of Medusa. Written above it is EUREKA meaning “I found it” which is the California state motto. Medusa was originally a demigod and epitome of beauty. But the Greeks say she fell in love with Poseidon, God of the Sea. According to the Roman, Ovid, Poseidon raped her in Athena’s temple. Enraged, Minerva turned Medusa’s beautiful golden hair into snakes, and her pale face into a green haggard face, making her a monster or gorgon. Anyone who looked at her was turned into stone. Perseus, the Greek hero, decapitated her head and gave it to Minerva, who put it on her goat-skin shield as an “aegis” i.e. an attribute of Athena. An attribute is an object in classical representation that labels the possessor.
3. The California grizzly bear, an extinct subspecies of the grizzly bear, sits on Minerva’s right and is the California State Mammal.
4. Between Minerva and her shield is a horn of plenty, with grapes signifying wine, and grain signifying agricultural riches.
5. A miner is at work in the left field of the coin representing gold deposits, discovered at Sutter’s Mill in 1848. The next year was a mass migration of hopeful millionaires, called the 49ers, to California.
6. Behind Minerva is a square-rigged schooner on the water with mountains rising behind it. This originally represented the Sacramento River and the Sierra Nevada mountains. But in the context of the California Pacific Exposition must include the Pacific Ocean, with the Coastal Range rising behind it. Between the Coastal Range and Sierra Nevada is the Central Valley - the source of California’s agricultural riches.

In the exergue is the inscription LIBERTY. The legend around reads: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. HALF DOLLAR.

The reverse of the coin shows two of the buildings constructed for the previous California-Panama Exposition held in San Diego in 1915: The California Tower and Chapel of St. Francis (which is now the San Diego Museum of Man). Surrounding the buildings are three tressures and two angles (the curves and Vs, framing the buildings, which are a common device found on old coins). Inscriptions are SAN DIEGO 1936 and IN GOD WE TRUST with a D mintmark. The legend reads CALIFORNIA PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION.

The Sculptor Robert Aitken

Robert Aitken (1878-1949) was born in San Francisco. He studied in the United States and then briefly in Paris. Aged 19 he set up a studio in San Francisco. In 1907, he moved to New York City. He made the Fire, Water, Earth and Air sculptures for the 1915 Panama Pacific Exposition, a world’s fair held in San Francisco, to great acclaim. He also sculpted the only 2 ½ ounce gold coin ever struck by the US Mint – the \$50 gold Panama-Pacific coin. His most famous work is the West Pediment of the US Supreme Court building. This includes former chief Justice John Marshall, and William Howard Taft, the building’s architect, as well as Aitken himself.



West Pediment of the US Supreme Court by Robert Aitken.



Sculptor Robert Aitken.

Aitken also designed the 1921 Missouri Centennial commemorative half dollar. By 1935 he was famous. He was vice-president of the National Academy of Design, New York City from 1929 to 1933. He took six years to depict 68 masters in painting and sculpture in the Gallery of Fine Arts in Columbus, Ohio. Cornelius Vermeule, in his book, *Numismatic Art in America* calls his design “one of the most powerful uses of the facing figure in American numismatic art”. Amazingly, despite numerous symbols the design is not cluttered. Don Taxay, in his book, *An Illustrated History of US Commemorative Coinage* lauds the design as “very distinguished artistically”.

Introducing the coin.

Aitken’s sculptures were approved by the Federal Commission on Fine Arts, except for the omission of E PLURIBUS UNUM and LIBERTY. Congress still requires both of these and more on all US coins. Aitken added the LIBERTY, but not the E PLURIBUS UNUM. Good for him! Congress has placed too many bureaucratic requirements for artists, making so many designs unartistic.

California Representative George Burnham introduced the bill saying they expected 7,000,000 to 10,000,000 people to attend the Exposition. The bill passed the House and Senate and was signed off by President Franklin Roosevelt (FDR) in May 1935.

California Senator William McAdoo (who had signed large-sized US notes as a previous Secretary of the Treasury 1913-1918) wrote to Morgenthau, then current Secretary of the Treasury under FDR, suggesting that President Wilson appear on the coin. But it was not to be.

The bas-relief was shipped to the Medallic Art Company, New York City, for reduction to dies on their Janvier lathe, which were shipped to the Philadelphia Mint. They, in turn sent the dies to the San Francisco Mint, which struck 250,000 coins and shipped them to the Bank of America in San Diego.

Of the 250,000 coins only 68,000 sold (at \$1 each). In 1936, the remaining 182,000 coins were sent to the Denver mint to be melted, and re-coined as a California Pacific International Exposition commemorative half dollar minted at the Denver mint with the D mintmark instead of the S mintmark of San Francisco. Only 30,000 of these sold at \$1.50, still leaving 150,000 unsold.

In 1966, it was found that one of the managers of the Exposition had hoarded 31,000 1935 S pieces, which were dispersed, accounting for most present day uncirculated specimens. Today these coins are popularly called San Diego commemorative half dollars.

The California Pacific Exposition.

International expositions really started in London, England, with the Crystal Palace Exposition in 1851 to show off their country’s industries and arts. Expositions are like a modern day tech fair, agricultural fair and art exhibition all in one.

Most of the great world’s fairs were held during the period 1850-1950. Although a World Fair is still held every five years, in the modern technologically connected age they no longer have much pull. But in their heyday the great World’s Fairs were experiences of a lifetime with huge investments. The Chicago World’s Columbian Exposition had 27.3 million visitors in 1893, when the US population was only 68 million. So the equivalent of 40% of the US population travelled to the exposition!

Numbers like this only exist today with modern technology involvement, like TV, Netflix movies, YouTube, social media, etc. The highest TV audience in the US is for the super-bowl which in 2018 reached 106 million people. With a current US population of 323 million this reflects a 33% turnout for a TV program watched at home – a far cry from 40% travelling to Chicago in 1893!



Modern day Balboa Park, San Diego.

The most recent World's Fair was Expo 2015 in Milan, Italy, with 22 million worldwide attendees. Out of a world population of 7.7 billion this represents a 0.3% attendance. But, to be fair, one should more reasonably consider Europe the catchment area with a population of 741 million giving an attendance of 3%.

But to return to our subject, the California Pacific International Exposition (CPIE) although low on the totem pole, was generally considered a World's Fair.

The Exposition ran from May 29th, 1935, to November 11th, 1935. The exposition was such a success that it opened again from February 12th, 1936, to September 9th, 1936. It was held in Balboa Park, San Diego, California. Promoters created parks and buildings and also wanted to promote San Diego. 7.2 million attended the exposition which brought \$37.7 million to San Diego. Promoters spent \$20 million for the CPIE.

The CPIE should not be confused with the 1915 Panama California Exposition held in 1915 and 1916 in San Diego to tout San Diego as a stopping place after the opening of the Panama Canal. This 1915 - 1916 expo was held at the same time as the famous 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition and World's Fair in San Francisco in 1915.



San Diego California Tower and St. Francis Chapel, now Museum of Man.

The promoter and planner, Frank Drugan, a newspaper executive, felt that buildings built for the 1915 Panama California Expo could be re-used for another exposition. 65% of the 2,700 exposition workers were relief workers paid for by the Federal Government. The architects, Bertram Goodhue and Carleton Winslow, designed the Spanish Colonial Revival buildings.

Attractions were: the Palace of Education, the California State Building (now San Diego automotive museum), the Palace of Electricity (now a gymnasium), the now defunct Palace of Water and Transportation, the Old Globe Theatre, the avant-garde Ford Building (now San Diego Air and Space Museum), the Ford Bowl, House of Pacific Relations (15 cottages each representing a foreign country), and the Spanish Village (six buildings – now an arts center), and Alpha, (a giant man constructed out of steel).



House of Hospitality CPIE.



Plaza de Panama from San Diego Historical Society

Other attractions included the California Tower, St. Francis Chapel (now the Museum of Man), the refurbished House of Hospitality from 1915, the Standard Oil building, and peeping at a nudist colony through fence holes!

There was also the Plaza de Panama, and the Palaces of Fine Arts, Food, Education, Electricity, Industries, Natural History and Science.

Many companies also exhibited in various buildings. There was also an Indian Village with 150 Native Americans.



Peeping through the fence holes at the nudist colony!

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1892 COLUMBIAN COMMEMORATIVE \$1/2. 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS PCGS MS 65+

2643

Four Expositions – CC 1&2.

The 1893 Columbian Exposition.

The biggest American World's Fair to date!



Columbus. Left by Alejo Fernandez 1531 - 1536, middle by Sebastiano del Piombo 1519, and right by Lorenzo Lotto 1512.



"Pillar Dollar" showing "Dos Mundos" reverse on the sea between the pillars.

The World's Columbian Exposition half dollar coin.

The obverse shows a portrait of Christopher Columbus done by Charles Barber, Chief Engraver of the US Mint. He signed it with a B on the truncation, just above the B of COLUMBIAN. No one really knows what Columbus looked like. Barber took his portrait from a painting by Lorenzo Lotto (see above). Many

portraits of him exist, all posthumous, and they all look different. No contemporary portrait is known. Columbus lived from 1446 to 1506. The legend reads *UNITED STATES OF AMERICA* COLUMBIAN HALF DOLLAR.

The reverse shows the Santa Maria, Columbus' flagship, in full sail on the sea, above two globes representing the east and the west. The globes are taken from an old Spanish device called "Dos Mundos" meaning two worlds (the old world and the new world), to show that Spain controlled both. Some complained that it looked as though the ship was on wheels!

Can you find the M on the reverse for George T. Morgan, the engraver? It is in the rigging on the right hand (aft). He was the engraver of the famous Morgan dollar. Morgan waited for decades for Charles Barber's dead man's shoes to become chief engraver of the Mint. Beside the dos mundos is inscribed the date 14....92. The legend reads: *WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION CHICAGO*1892. Fortunately, E PLURIBUS UNUM, IN GOD WE TRUST, and LIBERTY were not mandatory then. IN GOD WE TRUST started 1866, but the other mottoes became mandatory later.

Introducing the coin.

This was the first commemorative coin in America and was no doubt a welcome break from the endless female allegorical depictions of liberty put out by the mint in their first hundred years, starting with the half dime of 1792.

Organizers planned on opening in 1892 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Christoforo Columbo making landfall in the Americas. His first name, Christoforo, meant bearer of Christ. His last name Columbo meant dove, a name favored by early Christians as the dove symbolized the Holy Spirit. Interestingly, Columbus never actually set foot on mainland America, just on Caribbean islands particularly Hispaniola (present day Dominican Republic and Haiti) and Panama.

Exposition Manager George Davis suggested 40 million commemorative coins from the US Mint as admission tokens and souvenirs! Congress approved 5 million coins struck from obsolete Treasury silver coins to avoid any political difficulties that buying silver from Western mining interests would engender.

In the era of engraving (pushing soft steel around with tools), medals and coins could have designers and engravers. This was the case with the Columbian half dollar; Olin Levi Warner was the designer and two mint engravers engraved the dies. In 1921, sculptors became both designer and engraver only they did not engrave. Instead they made large sculptures which were reduced to dies using the new Janvier reducing lathe. The 1921 Peace dollar was the first coin created using this technique.

Columbian commemorative half dollars were minted starting December 19th, 1892. Standard Typewriter Manufacturing Company, Inc. (who changed its name to Remington Typewriter Company in 1902) offered \$10,000 for first Coin Struck. At the time a typical factory worker made only one dollar a day. After they struck the first coin they made 100 proof pieces (specially prepared planchets each struck multiple times, and each transferred by hand to avoid marks). They then struck the remainder of the 5 million coins.

The 400th, 1492nd and 1892nd were also sold at premiums totaling \$5,000. The commemorative half dollar coins went on sale in Chicago in 1892 for \$1. They distributed 950,000 1892 coins. Then they distributed 1,550,405 coins dated 1893. Despite 5 million authorized, fewer than 400,000 were sold at the premium price, and some two million were released into circulation, where they remained as late as the 1950s. The Mint melted 2,501,700 coins. In 1990, (when classic commemorative coins were selling at peak), the 1892 in MS 65 was valued at \$3,850 and in 2018 at \$275!

Susan B. Anthony insisted on a Board of Lady Governors for the Exposition. They also asked for a commemorative coin. In 1893 Congress approved 40,000 quarters. Kenyon Cox designed the coin and Charles Barber engraved the dies (please see page 85).

The obverse showed a crowned bust of Queen Isabella (the first foreign leader to be shown on a US coin) and a legend reading UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 1893. The reverse shows a kneeling female holding a distaff and spindle emblematic of women's industry. Only 24,214 were distributed, vastly upstaged by the 2.5 million Columbian commemorative half dollars. But they are now much rarer than Columbian commemorative half dollars selling for \$2,150 versus \$275 for an MS 65 commemorative half dollar.

The World's Columbian Exposition of 1893.

The first World's Fair was the Crystal Palace Exposition in London 1851, with six million visitors, covering 25 acres and costing \$1.6 million. In 1855, 1867, 1878 and 1889 the Paris Expositions Universelles were held. The last of these included the opening of the Eiffel tower. This was the biggest World's Fair thus far with 32 million visitors and covering 237 acres, and costing \$9 million (\$4.5 million came from the gate, and \$4.5 million from government grants).



The first World's Fair 1876. There were no commemorative coins just this medal.

The first World's Fair in US was the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia attracting 10 million visitors, and costing \$8 million. It was a financial flop. Commemorative coins hadn't been thought of but the US Mint made medals for collectors (see below).

The 1893 World's Columbian Exposition was the largest and most splendid yet with 27.5 million visitors, covering over 700 acres, and costing \$27 million.

The largest World's Fair in history was Expo 2010 in Shanghai with 73 million visitors, covering 1300 acres and costing \$4.2 billion!

In 1890, the US Congress discussed where to hold the fair. Washington DC had no senators, so got no support. That left New York City, St. Louis, and Chicago who petitioned to hold the fair. New Yorkers felt it was a no-brainer: anything west of the Hudson River was "hick country"! But the Chicago politicians won, and in 1890 Congress authorized Chicago as the host city.

Chicago had sole financial responsibility. There were no government grants like Paris had. So the corrupt Chicago mayor rounded up all the wealthy Chicago citizens he could persuade to invest in the Fair, and made many of them Directors of the Board. Chicago was the agricultural and manufacturing center of the US in 1893 with an annual output of \$2 billion. They hired Frederick Law Olmsted (the famous landscape architect who had designed Central Park in New York City) to design the grounds. He came up with a plan to drain a swamp by Lake Michigan about 8 miles south of Chicago now called Jackson Park. Olmsted envisaged a giant Venice with canals, lakes, fountains, statues and huge neoclassical buildings.

The plan seemed crazy, but there were no better plans, and the Directors could not locate a huge fair in downtown Chicago as there was no available land there. In 1890, a laborer's wage was 10 cents an hour. So the Board of Directors hired thousands of men to drive in wooden piles just like Venice, and dredge the swamp, creating dry land and lagoons.

The Board of Lady managers voted to prohibit nude art, lascivious dancing, alcohol and Sunday openings. But the male Board of Directors defeated all of these! They had to make money, and they knew people who came wanted a good time. The beer flowed. The belly dancers danced. Buffalo Bill was still considered too low-brow so was excluded, but set up outside the fair and made a killing.

The Directors constructed 200 temporary buildings made of metal framing, over which wood planks were fastened. These in turn were covered with "staff" a mixture of plaster of Paris, cement, glycerin, and hemp. It set quickly, and was sculpted by an army of sculptors, mostly Italian, to make neo-classical facades. Finally, the buildings were all painted white. But there wasn't enough time to paint them by hand, so for the first time in history they invented spray painting machinery. The result was called the "White City". Staff had first been used in the 1878 Paris Exposition. It rotted from the elements after a few years, thus was not intended as a permanent structure.

However, the Palace of Fine Arts building that housed multimillion dollar art displays had to be a more permanent building to get insurance, to protect the art works. This building is now the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry.

The largest building was the Manufactures and Liberal Arts building, the largest building in the world to date, measuring 1687 feet by 787 feet, housing 44 acres of floor space! It hosted manufacturers from all nations and was called the “biggest bazaar in history”. For 25¢ you could take an Otis elevator to the rooftop, a great place to take your date in the evening and watch the new lights.

Talking about lights - the late 1800's saw a booming industrialization which Mark Twain called the “gilded Age” because it was glittering on the outside and corrupt on the inside. Starting in late 1880's Thomas Edison, bankrolled by J. P. Morgan, battled his former employee Nicola Tesla, bankrolled by Westinghouse in the “War of the Currents”. Edison thought DC was best, Tesla thought AC was best. New York City had their first electric lights in 1882, but most homes were still lit with gas lamps.

Both Edison and Tesla bid for the electrical contract. Westinghouse seriously underbid them at \$400,000 and won. This was the first World's Fair to have extensive night time lighting, amazing visitors with the glittering display including search lights and colored bulbs. People also call it the “City of Light”. President Grover Cleveland opened the fair to a gathering of 300,000 on May 1st, 1893, the largest crowd ever to assemble anywhere. Cleveland tapped a special gold telegraph key. Immediately all the electric motors started, 120,000 bulbs flashed on, and electric pumps shot water fountains 150 feet up in the air!



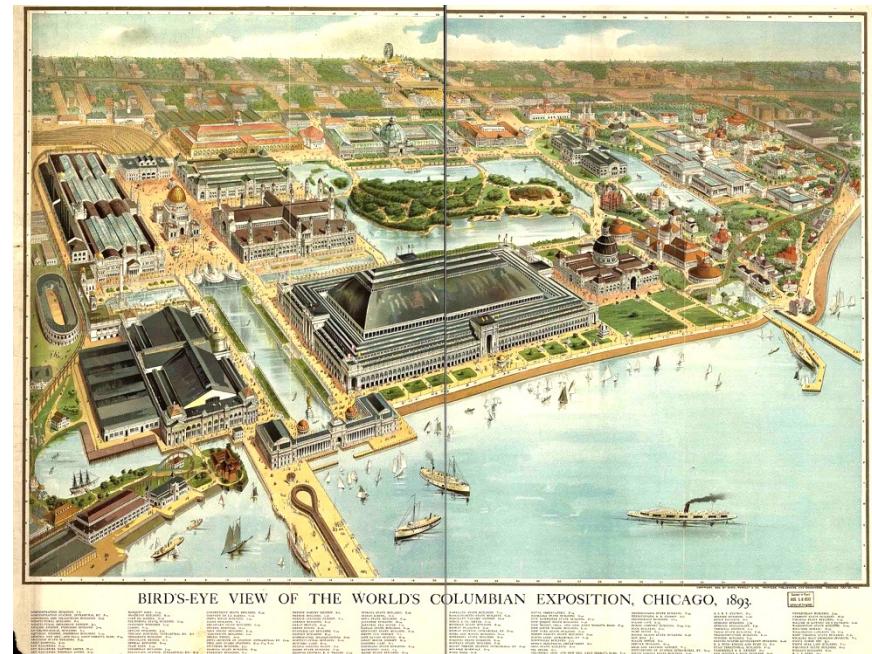
Agricultural Building at night, seen across Grand Basin

Edison also spent \$500,000 on his “Tower of Light” a multi-colored jewel tower lit from inside by incandescent lamps that switched on and off to the beat of an orchestra in the Electricity Building. The Machinery Hall included all the generators to power the exhibit as well as many other machines. The cacophony was so colossal that few visitors could spend much time there!

A rail head inside the fair greeted arrivals from all over the country. Others arrived by boat from Lake Michigan. Chicago also had numerous hotel rooms. Opportunists rented out their rooms to visitors. Fair admission was 50¢.

27.5 million people visited the fair in seven months - 40% of the US population of the day (68 million). As mentioned in the last section, “The highest TV audience in the US is for the super-bowl which in 2018 was 106 million people. With a current US population of 323 million this reflects a 33% turnout for a TV program watched at home – a far cry from 40% travelling to Chicago in 1893”!

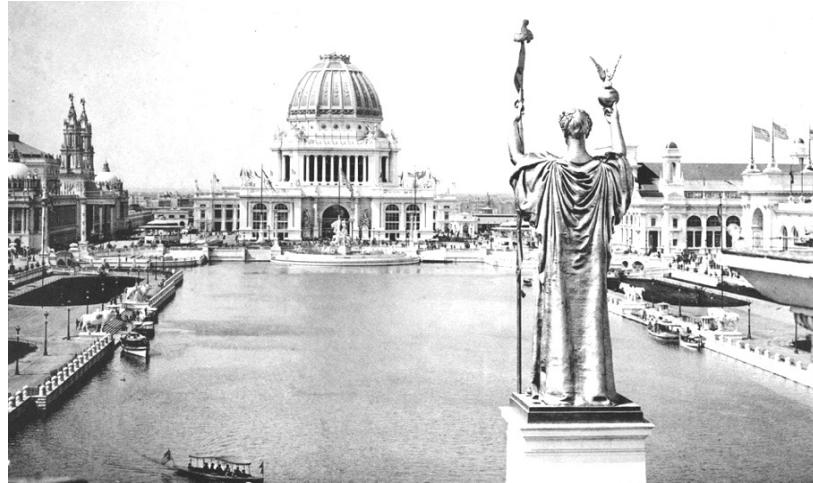
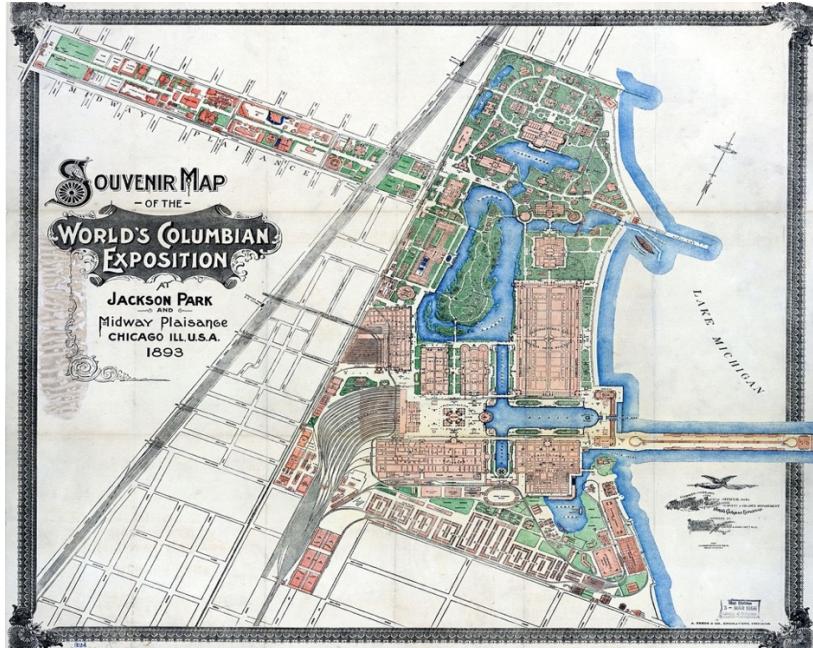
In the panorama below you can see the enormous Building of Manufactures straddling the fold in the paper with the main basin containing the gold Statue of the Republic near the lake, and the Columbian Fountains at the other end of the basin. To the left of the basin is the Agriculture building. Behind the basin is the gold domed Administration building with the huge railhead behind it. Behind the Manufactures building is the lagoon with an island. And behind that was a mile-long promenade called the “Midway Plaisance” where most of the entertainment was. Projecting into the lake was the first moving walkway along a huge pier. The lakeside entry was through an enormous peristyle with views to the basin.



Bird's Eye View of Main Exhibit Area of Columbian World's Fair 1893

Although Chicago spent \$27 million, 46 nations, and most US states and territories participated, each building their own buildings. Krupp from Germany placed a million-dollar exhibit showing off Germany's artillery might and showed the largest gun in the world. The Japanese spent \$630,000 on their exhibit on an island in the lagoon which became a place for relaxation.

Apart from the super-Jumbo Hall of Manufactures and Liberal Arts, some other buildings were: Agriculture, Mining, Electricity, Machinery, Women, Transportation, Forestry, Horticulture and Anthropology.



Looking west from the peristyle court of honor & grand basin Chicago 1893



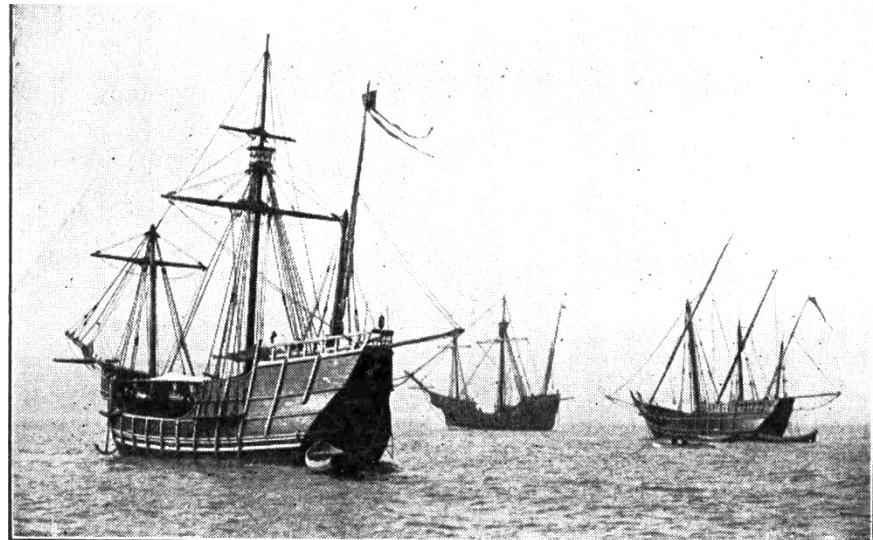
Administration Building at Chicago International Exhibition 1893.

The Midway Plaisance included belly dancers, clowns, "Little Cairo" (a Cairo street), and the World's Congress of Beauty featuring beautiful women from all Nations. Each exhibit was 25¢, camel rides were 50¢. There was a Bedouin encampment and a zoo of 1,500 different animals. A tethered hot air balloon ride which cost \$2 rose 1490 feet and included passenger photos.

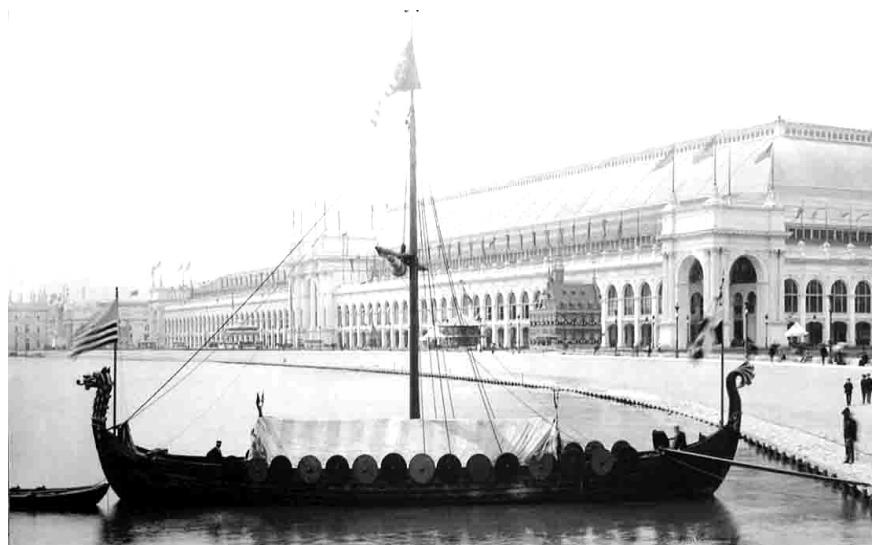


First Ferris Wheel Chicago World's Fair 1893.

But the biggest attraction was the world's first Ferris wheel, which at 50 cents a ride, made a \$730,000 profit. It had 36 cars each accommodating 40 people sitting or 60 standing. Some cars had small bands to play to spectators as they rose 264 feet in the air. After the fair the Wheel was used again in the 1904 St. Louis Fair, then sold as scrap metal.



Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria replicas at the Chicago Exhibition 1893.



Replica of the Gokstad Viking Ship at the Chicago International Expo 1893.

Spain made life-sized reproductions of the Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria, which they sailed to Lake Michigan. Norway also made a life size reproduction of the Gokstad, which they also sailed to Lake Michigan. This was a 78-foot-long, 890 AD, Viking Ship found in 1880 in a Norwegian burial mound. The Santa Maria, the largest of Columbus' ships, was only 50 to 60 feet long.



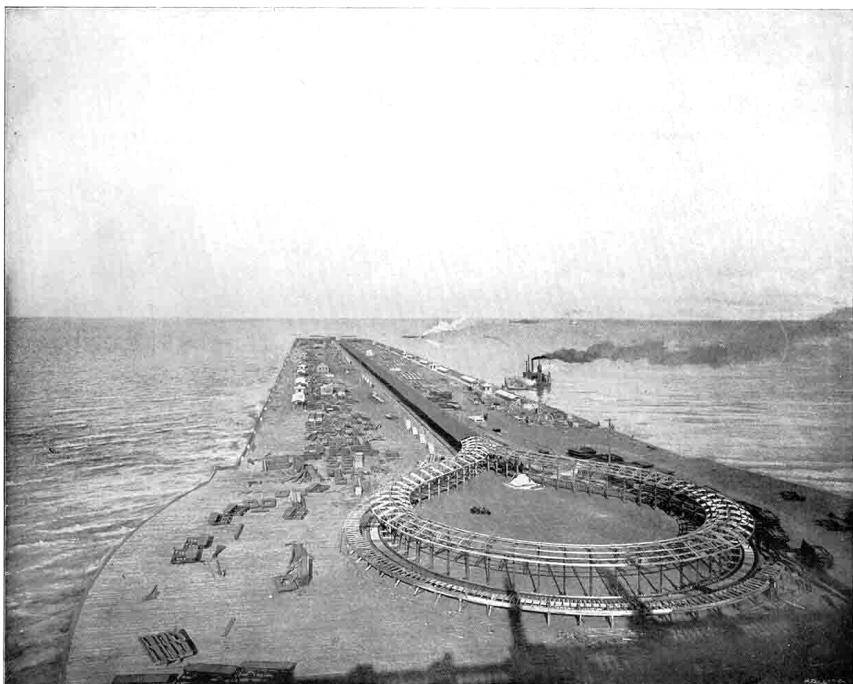
Replica of Venice at Chicago Exhibition 1893.



Modern Reproduction of Santa Maria to show small size.



Another view of the Santa Maria showing small size.

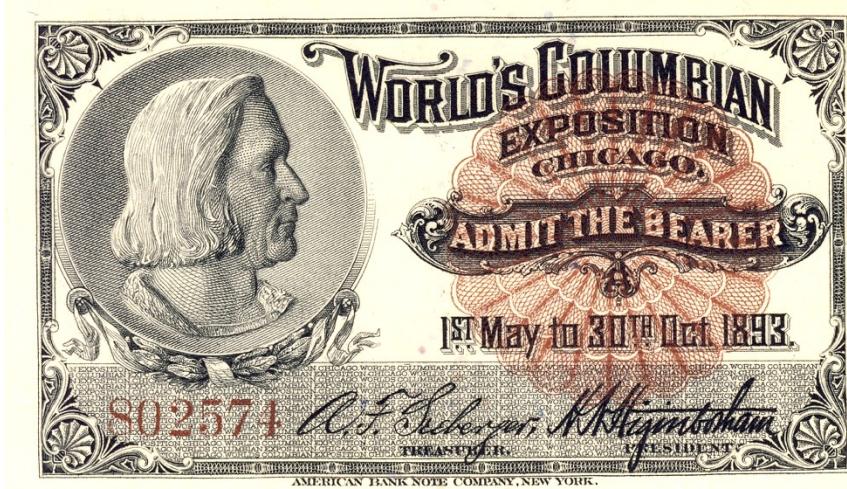


The Great Wharf with the Moving Sidewalk.

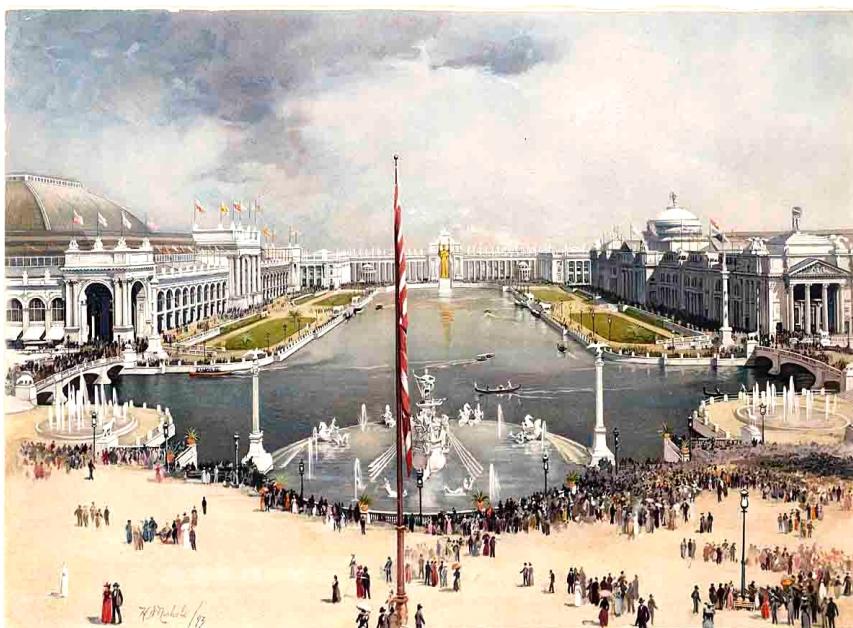
Collectors of classic commemorative coins also collect other keepsakes related to those coins especially from fairs. Medals that were awarded during the fair, and entry tickets are also popular souvenirs.



Two Columbian Exposition medals collected by visitors.



Admission ticket to Columbian Fair Engraved by American Bank Note Co.



View from Columbian Fountains across Grand Basin towards Peristyle

The Fair introduced for the first time: Hershey chocolate, Cream of Wheat, Quaker oats, Aunt Jemima's pancake mix, Braille book printing, a moving walkway and a fully electric kitchen.

At the end of this book is a section providing a walk around the Columbian World's Fair, taken from contemporary photographs. The reader is advised to take a walk!

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COMMEMORATIVE GOLD PANAMA PACIFIC QUARTER EAGLE 1915-S PCGS AU 58

2009



PANAMA-PACIFIC GOLD \$ 1915-S PCGS MS 64

1838



PANAMA PACIFIC EXPOSITION COMMEMORATIVE \$1/2. COLUMBIA/EAGLE 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS NGC MS 64

1373

Four Expositions – CC4. CC G 4 & 5.

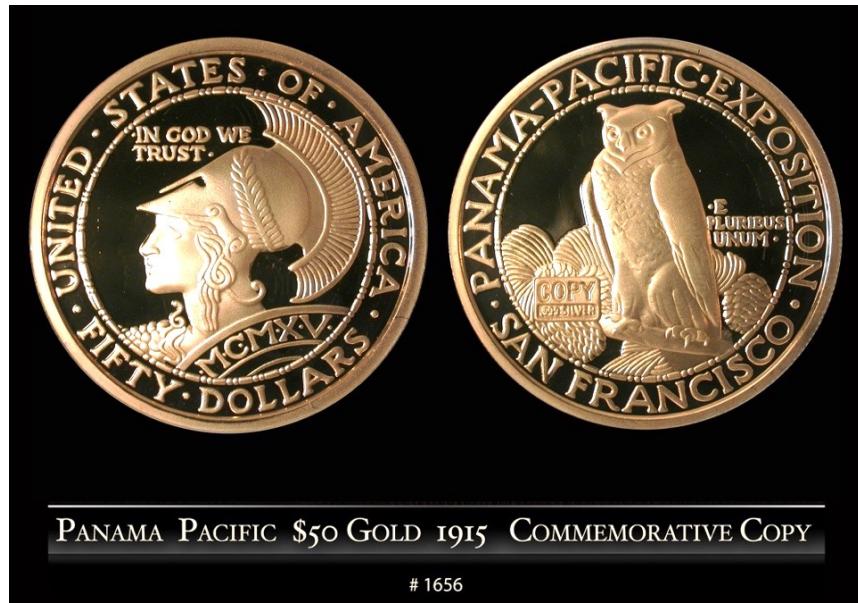
Panama Pacific Exposition 1915

Introduction.

The Panama Pacific Exposition (“Pan-Pac Expo”) celebrated an amazing engineering event in human history – the construction of the Panama Canal which for the first time connected the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

The coins.

Preceding photos show a quarter eagle gold piece, then a gold dollar, then a half dollar silver piece. There are also \$50 gold round and octagonal pieces that sell for \$50,000 to \$250,000 each (obviously not practical for most collectors!) five coins in all.



Reproduction of the \$50 gold piece – uncollectable for most at \$50,000+!

The \$50 piece was designed by Robert Aitken. He also designed the Missouri Centennial commemorative half dollar and the California Pacific Exposition commemorative half dollar. The obverse (see copy above) shows Athena (Minerva for the Romans), Goddess of wisdom and warfare, wearing a Corinthian helmet. The reverse shows an owl symbolizing wisdom with the legend: PANAMA PACIFIC EXPOSITION SAN FRANCISCO. During the Californian territorial gold era (1850s) round and octagonal \$50 “slugs” were made. The Pan-Pac pieces imitated these.

The quarter eagle (gold \$2.50 piece) shows Columbia seated on a hippocampus, a mythical animal with the front of a horse and the body of a fish, symbolizing the Panama Canal. She holds Hermes’ (Mercury for the Romans) caduceus. The reverse shows a perched eagle with raised wings.

The dollar gold piece designed by Charles Keck shows on the obverse the head of a Panama Canal laborer. The worker, representing the labor necessary to build the canal, is sometimes mistaken for a baseball player because of his cap. The reverse shows two dolphins around ONE DOLLAR, with the legend: PANAMA PACIFIC EXPOSITION SAN FRANCISCO.

The half dollar obverse was designed and engraved by Charles Barber, Chief Engraver of the US Mint showing Columbia with the golden gate in the background. George Morgan designed and engraved the reverse eagle on shield.

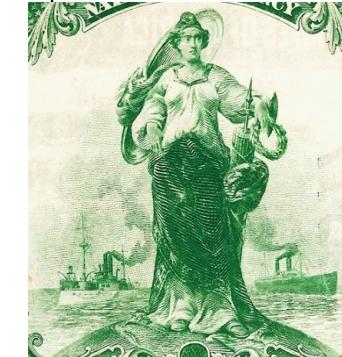
Introducing the coin.

In 1914, the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) cooperated with the Treasury Department for the first time on coin design for the Pan-Pac coins. Before this the designs were just the decision of the Mint Engravers. The Chief Engraver, Charles E. Barber, and Assistant Chief Engraver, George Morgan, were not outstanding artists. In 1914 the Congressional Act for the Pan-Pac coins said that the “Secretary of the Treasury shall have the designs prepared”. The Mint Director George Roberts wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury, William McAdoo, suggesting the CFA, who in turn suggested a list of outside artists. Aitken and Keck had already started their designs for the \$50 and \$1 pieces respectfully. But the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury William Malburn, rejected all the designs. McAdoo agreed. A new Mint Director then directed Barber and Morgan to do all the coins. A few days later Aitken resubmitted changes for his \$50 piece, and Keck resubmitted changes for his \$1 piece with three models to choose from. Hence the \$50 and \$1 were designed by outsiders, and the commemorative half dollar and quarter eagle by mint engravers.

The Panama Canal.

The French completed the Suez Canal in 1869 after ten years of work. The world then thought, if the French can’t build the Panama Canal, no one can. But America accomplished this truly technological marvel. America was rightly proud and the Panama Pacific Exposition in 1915 celebrated this amazing feat.

The rest of the chapter is taken from my book “Notable Notes” on the Panama Canal, together with some pictures of stock certificates and other collectibles.



Allegory of Panama from back of \$10 Large Size National Bank Note Fr 634

The back of this \$10 large size Federal Reserve note of 1914 (above) symbolizes the Panama Canal. The Panama Canal cut the voyage between New York and San Francisco, via the dangerous Cape Horn, from 14,000 miles to 6,000 miles.

In 1698, the King of Scotland launched the Darien scheme to develop an overland trade route through southern Panama linking the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The scheme failed disastrously almost bankrupting Scotland, but was the first scheme trying to link the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean.

Spurred by California's gold rush, the Panama Railway opened in 1855. So travelers between New York and San Francisco would now travel overland in safety between the two ports of Colon and Panama City. Shipping consisted of two boats that plied traffic on each side.



Stock Certificate 10 shares of \$100 in Panama Rail Road Company 1850



French 500 Francs Stock Certificate for Panama Canal 1880, capitalized at 300 million francs.

The French, under Ferdinand de Lesseps, built the Suez Canal from 1858 to 1869 using 30,000 forced Egyptian laborers, who cut a 120-mile-long channel. In 1880, de Lesseps started a 48-mile canal in Panama too. But he was a businessman not an engineer, and had not studied the project or the area properly. Twenty-two thousand men died from yellow fever and malaria. The French soon realized they could not even maintain such a canal let alone finish it. The mosquito was unknown as the vector of malaria and yellow fever at the time. In 1889, construction stopped and four years later the French left. In 1897, an Englishman, Ronald Ross, discovered that mosquitos carried malaria. In 1900, the American Walter Reed, discovered that mosquitos also carried yellow fever.

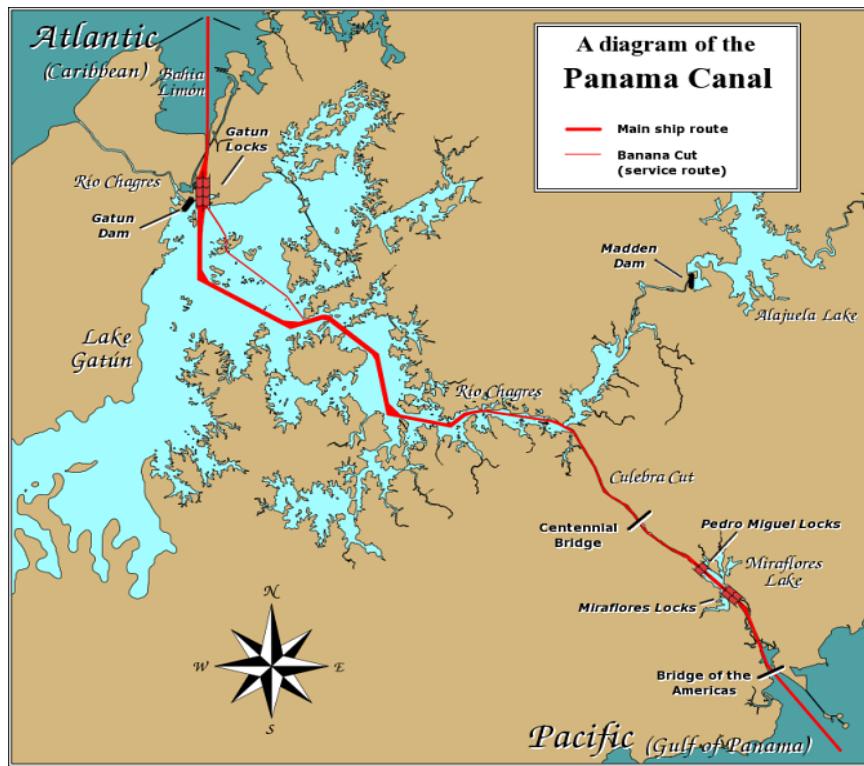
In 1898, the French Canal Syndicate head, Philippe Bunau-Varilla, hired William Cromwell, a US lobbyist, to persuade the US to take over the project and buy out France. It had taken 67 days for the US navy vessel "Oregon" to rush from San Francisco to the Caribbean when the US was verging on war with Spain that year and President "Teddy" Roosevelt vowed he would build a canal.

Initially, Nicaragua was chosen as a route but in 1902 the US lobbyist, Cromwell, (whom France had hired) noticed a Nicaraguan stamp printed by the American Bank Note Company showing the Momotombo Volcano erupting, which he mailed to all Senators to persuade them that a Nicaraguan canal might be destroyed by lava and fire. Although Teddy Roosevelt wanted the Panamanian route, the Senate at the time was hell-bent on the Nicaraguan route. But Teddy got his way.

The French agreed to sell their interest for \$40 million. In 1903, the US made a treaty with Columbia of which Panama was then a part, but their congress did not ratify it. So the US supported Panamanian secession from Columbia to be able to construct and thereafter control the canal. The US projected a construction cost of \$387 million. They paid Panama \$10 million in a lump sum followed by a yearly fee. In 1921, the US paid Columbia \$25 million to compensate them for Panama's secession.



Nicaragua stamp of Momotombo Volcano



Construction of Panama Canal 1907

Construction lasted from 1904 to 1914. Chief Engineer John Stevens oversaw mosquito control programs, developed locks, and rebuilt the Panama Railway into a special system to remove excavated soil. Giant hydraulic crushers replaced the small French machines. Stevens realized locks would be needed. The first ships passed through in 1914 two years ahead of projected completion. Ross's and Reed's research saved over 10,000 lives.

In 1935, they finished the Madden Dam creating Madden Lake (Alajuela Lake) with water storage for Panama Canal's gravity-fed locks. In 1939, larger locks were created. Rainfall fills the lakes to give water to fill the locks. Later, Panamanians felt the canal belonged to Panama, so in 1977 Carter gave the canal to Panama as long as Panama guaranteed permanent neutrality of the canal.

The maximum size of vessel that fits through is called a Panamax. Container ships grew larger and larger since the invention of containers in 1956. Larger vessels are called super-Panamax or post-Panamax. From 2010 to 2105, 205 to 230 million tons yearly passed through the canal, generating \$2 billion in tolls. Maximum lock size was 1,000 by 110 feet. The Atlantic entrance is at Colon in Colon Harbor, passing through the three-stage Gatun Locks in the Northwest into Lake Gatun. The ships exit through the Culebra Cut, then the one-stage Pedro Miguel locks into Miraflores Lake and the two-stage Miraflores locks, passing Southeast under the Bridge of the Americas adjacent to Balboa, just south of Panama City. The Pacific is 20 cm higher than the Atlantic. The Culebra (previously called Gaillard) cut is through the Panamanian Continental Divide at the Sierra de Veraguas which rises 530 feet above sea level.

Since the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) took over, tonnage throughput has increased 36%. The two dams create hydro-electric power, 75% of which is not used by the canal and is sold. The Suez Canal still competes for Asian traffic to the East Coast of America.

A \$5 billion expansion of locks opened in June 2016. This doubled the previous cargo capacity with locks of 1,400 by 180 feet. Vessels this size are called "Neo-Panamax". There was a 20% increase in tonnage throughput in 2017. However, there is concern that Lake Gatun could start running out of water to fill the locks. One of the design features of the new locks is water saving basins.



Panama Pacific Exposition with Tower of Jewels on left and Italian Tower on right.

The Panama Pacific Exposition in San Francisco celebrated the Panama Canal's opening but also showcased San Francisco's recovery from the 1906 earthquake. The centerpiece was the Tower of Jewels (see previous page) 435 feet high with 100,000 colored cut glass pieces that sparkled in the sun by day and in 50 search lights by night.



Panama Pacific Exposition Festival Hall



Panama Pacific Exposition Palace of Horticulture.

A dozen huge buildings built of staff (plaster of Paris, cement, glycerin and hemp) over a temporary frame, housed exhibits. The buildings were pulled down after the year's exhibit. Only the Palace of Fine Arts remained standing – built to a stricter fire code in order to insure its valuable contents during the exhibit. It was rebuilt in 1960 and now houses a science museum.



Panama Pacific Exposition Palace of Fine Arts in 1919 before it fell into disrepair.



Exposition buildings aerial view colored to distinguish from rest of Marina District

Like most expositions, other keepsakes were created, including the official Panama Pacific Exposition bronze medal opposite sculpted by Robert Aitken (1878-1949). This was struck at the US Mint exhibit on the Exposition grounds sculpted it. Aitken also sculpted the Panama Pacific \$50 gold coin, the 1921 Missouri Centennial commemorative half dollar and the 1935 and 1936 San Diego commemorative half dollar. It shows winged Mercury, God of travelers and merchants, opening the lock gates of the canal with a boat passing through and the admonition "ON! SAIL ON!" The reverse shows allegorical females representing the eastern and western hemispheres, holding hands around the earth. They also hold cornucopias representing plenty for each. Below flies a seagull. Why below and not above?

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PANAMA PACIFIC OFFICIAL EXPO MEDAL. HK-400; NGC 62 BN

2611



US COMMEMORATIVE \$ 1/2, SESQUICENTENNIAL OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE 1926. WASHINGTON & COOLIDGE / BELL 30.6MM, 12.5 GRAMS AU+

509

Four Expositions – CC 17

Sesquicentennial of Independence 1926

The background.

In 1925, Congress, anxious to celebrate the sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) of American independence, voted for a million silver coins and 200,000 gold coins for the NSEA (National Sesquicentennial Exhibition Association). Originally the NSEA asked for multiple commemoratives like todays multiple issues. They wanted coins representing the original 13 colonies, the Louisiana Purchase, and the accession of California and Texas i.e. 16 different coins! But it was not to be – Congress just gave them a commemorative half dollar and a gold quarter eagle (\$2.50) commemorative piece.

The NSEA asked John R. Sinnock, Chief Mint Engraver (1925-1947), to design both the silver and gold coins. But they rejected the half dollar design. An influential local attorney, John Frederick Lewis (1860-1932), was an amateur artist and his designs for the half dollar were accepted instead. Lewis was a renaissance man. He started his own law firm, and was a lecturer on shipping and admiralty at the University of Pennsylvania. He was also on the United States Shipping Board, in charge of the schools of navigation and marine engineering. He was President of the the American Academy of Music, the History Society of Pennsylvania, the Mercantile Library of Philadelphia, the Academy of Fine Arts, the Art Jury of Philadelphia, and was also a very wealthy numismatist. Amazing!



John Sinnock Chief Mint Engraver with sculpture of FD Roosevelt

Embarrassingly, Sinnock was then told to sculpt the Lewis' designs. This must have been a painful moment for Sinnock. Sinnock was also the sculptor of the Roosevelt dime still in current use. Although he was given credit for the Roosevelt design, actually the design was by Ms. Selma Burke (1900-1995) an African American. Sinnock also sculpted the 1918 Illinois commemorative half dollar and the purple heart.

The Coin.

The commemorative half dollar obverse shows the right facing conjoined busts of Washington in the front with Coolidge behind. People objected to President Calvin Coolidge (US President in 1926) being on the coin because there was a law prohibiting placing the image of a living person on coins. But the precedent had already been set by Alabama Governor Kilby on the 1921 Alabama commemorative half dollar. Consequently, the objections were to no avail. So Coolidge became the first living President to be depicted on a US coin. The Legend reads: LIBERTY * UNITED STATES OF AMERICA *.

The reverse shows the Liberty Bell with the inscription E PLURIBU UNUM above, 1776 on the left and 1926 on the right. The legend reads: SESQUICENTENNIAL OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE HALF DOLLAR. Sinnock later used this Liberty Bell design on the reverse of his Franklin half dollar, struck in 1948 after he died.

On the neck of the sculpted bell is LEV XXV X PROCLAIM LIBERTY (*throughout all the land unto all inhabitants ther*)EOF, i.e. a biblical quote from Leviticus 25:10. The second line reads: BY ORDER OF THE AS(sembly of the province of Pennsylvania for the state H) OUSE IN PHILADA. Beneath this on the body of the bell is: PASS AND STOW (the bell makers), then PHILAD^A MDCCLIII (1753, the year of its casting – a complex process). All this is faithfully reproduced as it appears on the giant 80-foot bell. The Liberty Bell cracked in 1835 as it tolled for Chief Justice John Marshall's funeral procession.



Liberty Bell massive reproduction made for entry to Sesquicentennial Exposition.



AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE SESQUICENTENNIAL 1926 GOLD COMMEM QUARTER EAGLE. LIBERTY/INDEPENDENCE HALL; 17MM, 4.18 GRAMS NGC MS 61

1703

Introducing the coin.

The NSEA absolutely insisted on a low relief resulting in a very unartistic coin. Today this commemorative half dollar is one of the most unpopular of classic commemoratives. It is perhaps fitting that the worst classic commemorative coin should have been designed by a non-professional! The NSEA asked for a million coins, to be priced at \$1. But 859,408 had to be returned to the mint to be melted, as only 140,592 were sold and distributed.

The first Sesquicentennial half dollar was coined at the Philadelphia Mint by Philadelphia Mayor W. Freeland Kendrick at a special ceremony on May 19th, 1926. They presented it to President Calvin Coolidge when he visited the Exposition and now resides in the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Library and Museum.

The Mint credited Sinnock with the half dollar designs for 40 years until Taxay's *An Illustrated History of U.S. Commemorative Coinage* in 1967, disclosed Lewis's involvement. Curious how things get covered up!

The quarter eagle opposite was designed and sculpted by John Sinnock, which the NSEA accepted. It certainly looks like a professional job which the half dollar does not! Though to be fair it was the NSEA who insisted on such shallow relief on the half dollar. Presumably someone got a bee in their bonnet about the high relief Saint-Gauden designed into his twenty-dollar gold pieces in 1907. After the first year of production the Mint had to reduce the relief of the design to allow them to stack. Though by contrast, for a commemorative rather than a circulating piece, one wants high relief!

To return to the quarter eagle: the obverse of the quarter eagle shows Liberty with a liberty cap, standing on top of the world, holding the Declaration of Independence against her left shoulder, and holding the torch of freedom in her right outstretched arm, as in the Statue of Liberty. In the fields are 1776, 1926, and the legends UNITED STATES OF AMERICA LIBERTY.

The reverse shows Independence Hall in Philadelphia, where the Declaration of Independence was supposedly signed (it was actually signed over a period of days at different locations), with a rising sun behind. Legends are E PLURIBUS UNUM below, and IN GOD WE TRUST above. (Interestingly the 1776 Bicentennial Independence Hall commemorative half dollar looks very similar.) In the right lower field is JRS for John R Sinnock. The NSEA also insisted the coin be struck in low relief like the half dollar (were they hell-bent on unartistic coins?!?) so that the sun's rays are usually not seen, and are sometimes described as a "fingerprint" as on this coin. The legend reads SESQUICENTENNIAL OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE 2 ½ DOLLARS. The quarter eagles sold for \$4 at the Exposition.

200,000 were minted. The NSEA only distributed 46,019 coins so returned 154,207 to the mint to be melted. It was the last classic commemorative gold coin made. One matte proof quarter eagle was made for Sinnock; no others have appeared since – Walter Breen's description of two were probably the same coins.

Coin were sold at the Exposition, or by mail order from the Franklin Trust Company. Coin dealer B. Max Mehl said, "Philadelphia with a population of over 2,000,000 people ... could and should have sold a greater number of coins". Arlie R. Slabaugh, in 1962 (see references), also wrote "we have been called

complacent about our independence and the American way of life in recent years - judging by the sale of these coins, it must have been much worse in 1926".

The Exposition

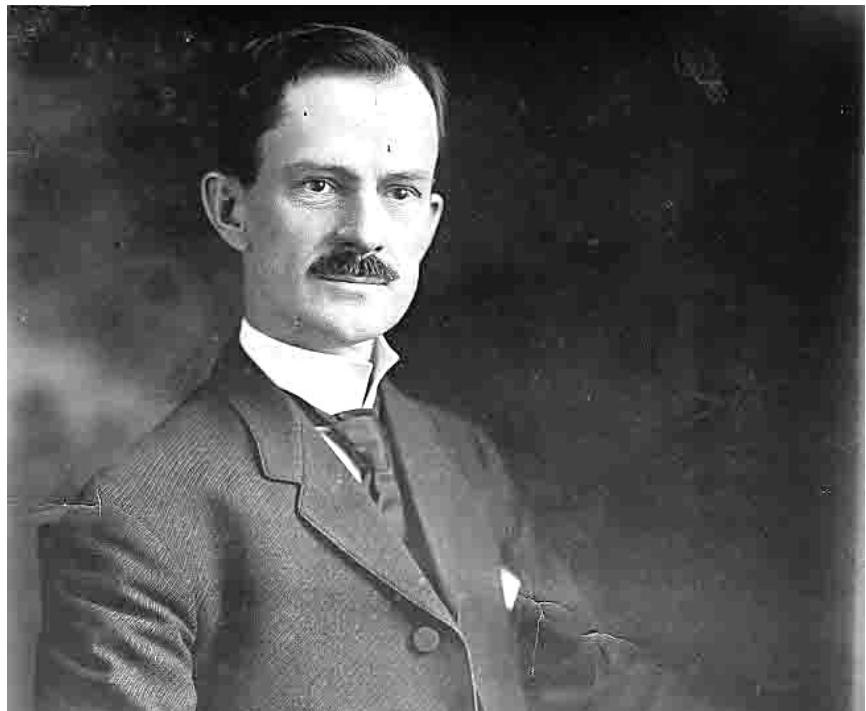
The fair opened with a fanfare in 1926. It closed in receivership in 1927.

The SCEA (Sesquicentennial Exhibition Association) started in 1921. Political struggles started almost immediately. Philadelphia Mayor Joseph Hampton Moore, and the Chamber of Commerce both wanted a commercial Exposition. By contrast Edward Bok (1863-1930), editor of *The Ladies Home Journal*, wanted to stress Philadelphia history, and to avoid commercialization even offering to pay from his own pocket \$50,000 a year for a Director General for up to five years. (At the time an average factory worker earned about \$1,200 a year). Bok offered the job to Herbert Hoover, who refused (Hoover subsequently became president of the US from 1929 to 1933). Bok wanted to rename the fair "Liberty Fair for World Peace and Progress".

Philadelphians were asked to buy stock, but all they saw was an expensive international shindig. They wanted more housing and employment and worried that the fair would attract outside competing labor and criminals.



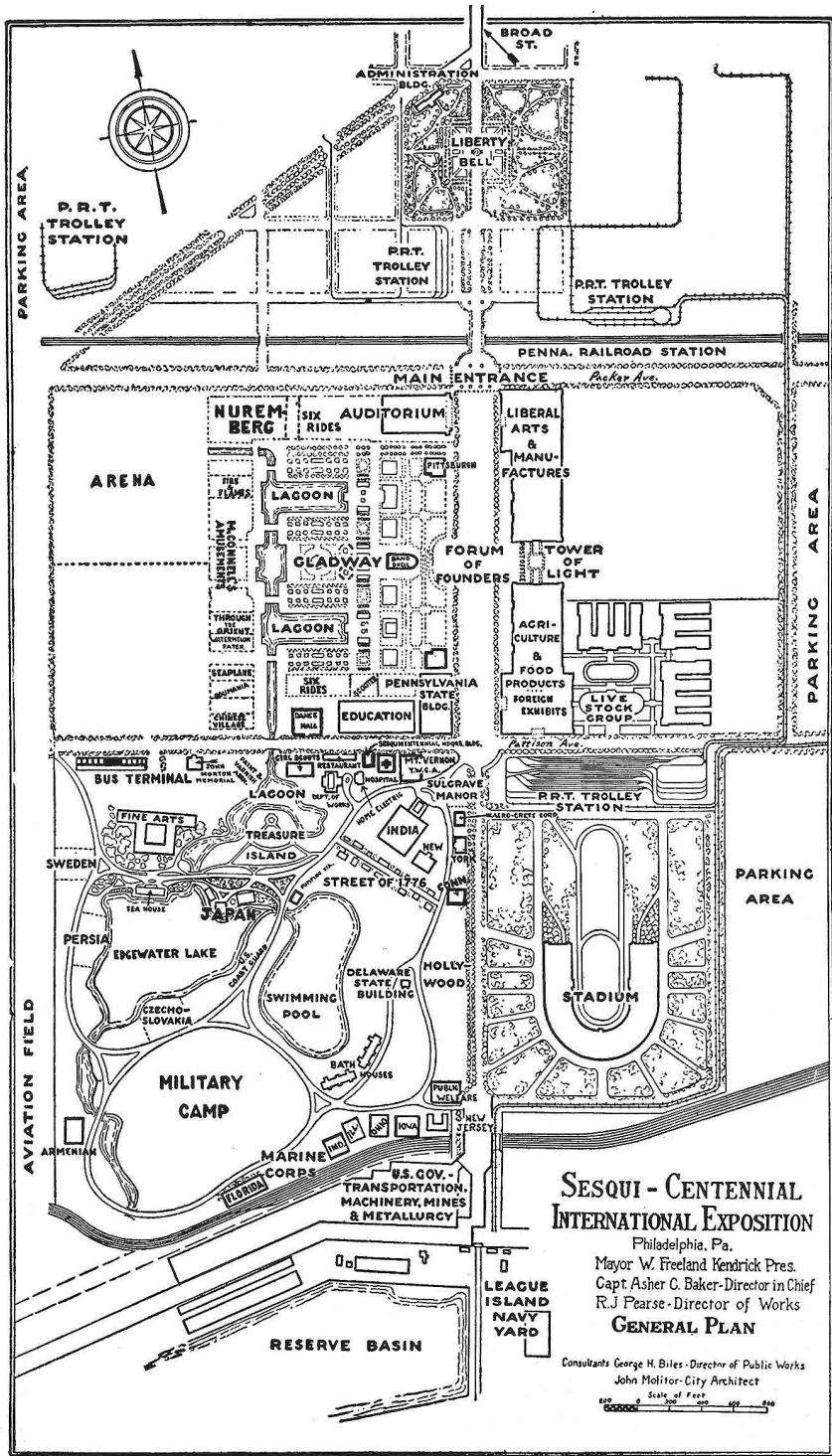
Edward Bok, the man who wanted a non-commercialized Fair



Philadelphia Mayor Joseph Hampton Moore who wanted commerce



Philadelphia mayor W. Freeland Kendrick who changed the venue.



Mayor Moore (1864-1950) resigned as SCEA president 1922 because of Bok's opposition, and in 1923 publicly opposed the fair. In 1924 a new mayor W. Freeland Kendrick was elected who took over the SCEA presidency and abandoned Fairmont Park as the location. Instead he chose undeveloped land in South Philadelphia. They drained the swampy land and filled in. Building began in 1925.

The fair ran from May 31st to September 30th 1926, though several buildings were not completed until July 1926. There were five large temporary exhibition halls featuring major exhibits of arts, science and industries, and pavilions for 35 states and territories, and nine nations.

A permanent Municipal Stadium was built seating 125,000, which remained in use until 1992. This housed sporting events, and religious services.

There was a re-creation of a colonial Philadelphia High Street with twenty buildings, and an 80-foot high Liberty Bell replica, animals, rides, Zeppelins, flower gardens and promenades. John Philip Sousa composed a sesquicentennial Exposition March that they performed regularly.

SCEA predicted an attendance of 30 million, but only 4.6 million people paid to attend, although 1.4 million others got free passes. But many factors took their toll: local opposition to the fair; Edward Bok; bad weather (it rained on 107 of the 184 days the fair was open); the newly introduced movies; and the preoccupation with the present roaring twenties rather than the past.

Opposite is the plan of the Exposition showing the Liberty Bell in the north where the trolley, the railroad, and road transport arrived. After passing through the main entrance the visitor walked through the "Forum of the Founders" which had 13 pillars representing the original 13 states. On each side were the exhibition halls, and state, territory and foreign pavilions. Beyond this were lagoons, and the enormous horseshoe shaped stadium, where the famous heavyweight world champion boxer Jack Dempsey (1895-1983) lost to Gene Tunney on September 23rd, 1926. Dempsey had been the first athlete to attract a million-dollar gate when he fought Georges Carpentier in Jersey City on July 2nd, 1921.

The fair depended mostly on the willingness of visitors to spend money at the concessions. The commemorative half dollar was on sale for \$1, and the quarter eagles for \$4. But few availed themselves of the opportunity, only 2% of the half dollars and 0.76% of the quarter eagles were sold at the Exposition. The remainder were sold afterwards. The exposition was funded mostly through local commercial ventures and bonds. It was not publicized nationally, and received little support from the United States government. It ended as a financial flop and went into receivership in 1927.

The US government also made a special stamp for the occasion, and had a post office on the site at the Exposition. The stamp shows the dates of the sesquicentennial, 1776 and 1926, as well as the Liberty Bell.



Two cent Sesquicentennial Exposition stamp

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FORT VANCOUVER CENTENNIAL 1925 SILVER \$ 1/2. McLoughlin/Pioneer. 12.50 GRAMS, 30.6MM MS60

1180

CHAPTER SIX

14 Historical Coins – CC 16

Fort Vancouver Centennial 1925.

The Background.

The Fort Vancouver Centennial celebration was a local affair. It should have garnered a medal, but not a US Commemorative coin. The reason it did was that the Fort Vancouver Centennial Corporation (FVCC) had US Congressional Rep. Albert Johnson push a bill for the Commemorative half dollar. Rep. Henry Vestal, Chairman of the House Coinage Committee, persuaded him to accept a medal only. But when Vestal later announced a bill for a Vermont commemorative coin, Rep Raker of California tacked on an amendment for the California Jubilee coin, so Rep. Johnson did the same for Fort Vancouver coin.

The Coin.

The obverse shows a bust of Dr. John McLoughlin facing left. The legend reads UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HALF DOLLAR. Another legend beneath the bust reads DR. JOHN M^CLOUGHLIN. The inscriptions read 1825 in the left field and 1925 in the right field. Below this is IN GOD WE TRUST.

The reverse shows a buckskin-suited trapper standing facing right with a musket resting on his right thigh and with Fort Vancouver's stockade and Mount Hood in the distance, and the Willamette River behind. (The Willamette River courses 15 miles north to merge with the Columbia River). Below the palisade in the right field is LGF, for Laura Gardin Fraser, the sculptor. Within an outer ring is the legend FORT VANCOUVER CENTENNIAL, below is •VANCOUVER• WASHINGTON•FOUNDED•1825• BY• HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

The coin was authorized February 1925. FVCC asked Sidney Bell, a Portland, Oregon artist, to design it. He designed Dr. McLoughlin's portrait after a sketch by John T. Urquhart. The FVCC liked his design but the Commission on Fine Arts rejected it and had Laura Gardin Fraser take over. She was paid \$1,200. She had designed the 1921 Alabama commemorative half dollar, the 1922 Grant commemorative half dollar, and the 1926-1939 reverse of the Oregon Trail commemorative half dollar featuring the standing native American. She had studied sculpture aged 18 with James Earle Fraser (engraver of the iconic buffalo nickel), whom she married in 1913.

Introducing the coin.

The San Francisco Mint struck 50,000 commemorative half dollars, leaving out the S mintmark. It is not known whether this was intentional or whether it was a mistake. As a publicity stunt Lt. Oakley Kelly flew all the half dollars to Vancouver (a suburb in Portland but north of the Columbia River, hence in Washington state not Canada). Kelly was presented with the very first half dollar. The flight was 550 miles each way and took 11 hours. Kelly, flight commander

of the Vancouver barracks, had made the first non-stop US transcontinental flight in May 1923, flying 2,600 miles in 26 hours. Planes did not go very fast in those days!

The coins were offered at \$1 each by the FVCC. The celebration only lasted one week from August 17th to 24th, 1925. 14,966 coins were distributed; the rest were returned to the San Francisco Mint for melting. It is remarkable that so many sold for what was a short local celebration. Two to three proofs are known.

By 1928, some coins sold for \$10, but by 1930 they dropped to \$6 to \$7. In 1926, Governor Charles Sale of Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) bought 1,000 of the coins. They were stolen by a caretaker from the Provincial Archives Building in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada in 1982. He spent many of them at face value (when each had a numismatic value of \$800!). The theft was not discovered till five months later in 1983. A Winnipeg bank teller accepted 568 of the coins and returned \$284 in Canadian paper dollars to the robber. The teller asked her supervisor if she could buy the coins from the bank at face value. Yes! She sold them to a Canadian dealer for \$37,500 in 1983, worth around \$100,000 today! In 2018, the NGC website listed the coins for \$330 to \$1,100 from MS 60 to MS 65.



Dr. John McLoughlin

Dr. John McLoughlin

Dr. John McLoughlin was born 1784 in Rivere de Loup, Lower Canada, and apprenticed aged 14 to a Quebec physician. He studied in Paris and Edinburgh, and at the age of 19 became a surgeon for the North West Company (NWCo), working at Fort William, on Lake Superior. Aged 30 he became a NWCo partner, and gave up medical practice for the fur trade. The NWCo competed with the Hudson Bay Company (HBC), and made 1820 dated tokens listed as colonial money in *A Guide Book of United States Coins*. At the time, the Pacific Northwest was jointly occupied and was disputed territory between America and Britain. One of these tokens supposedly could be exchanged for one beaver fur. Almost all known specimens are pierced and are ground finds i.e. corroded copper.

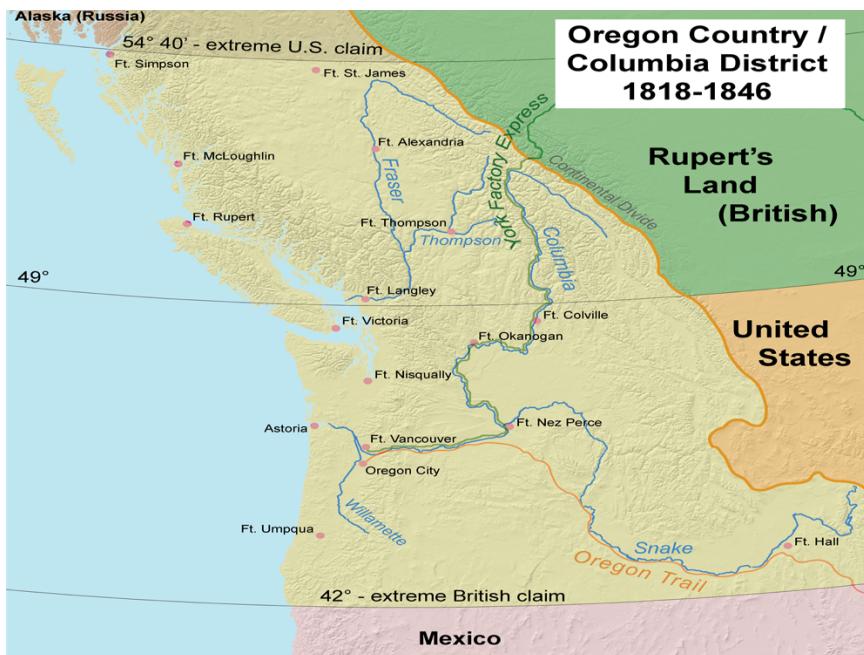


In 1821, McLoughlin travelled to London representing NWCo. Ultimately HBC bought out NWCo. He now worked for HBC. Aged 42 in 1825, he established the new Fort Vancouver for HBC, controlling all of HBC in Oregon Country (i.e. the Pacific Northwest) until 1846. The Oregon treaty of 1846 established the 49th parallel as the border between the US and British Canada (see map opposite).

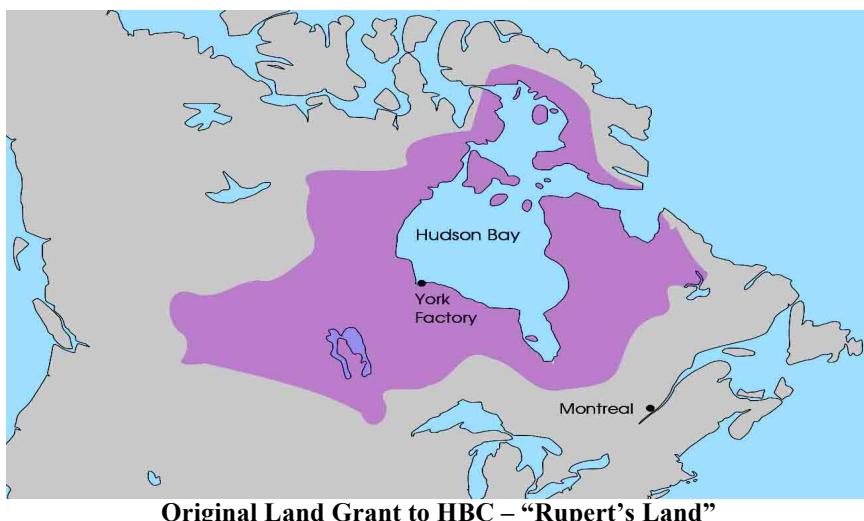
Fort Vancouver was home to around 1,000 whites, who traded with 100,000 Native Americans. McLoughlin was the Chief Factor (i.e. the top official in HBC, a factor in those days meant a merchant's agent). He was an authoritarian ruler and was called the "King of Old Oregon". For twenty years there was no fighting between the settlers and Native Americans, largely because of McLoughlin.

In 1842, he resigned and founded Oregon City (now 12 miles south of Portland, Oregon). To this day Oregon's nickname is "Beaver State".

The word Vancouver comes from Captain George Vancouver (1758-1798), who sailed with Captain James Cook on his first and second voyages. Britain had Captain Vancouver explore the pacific Northwest in the boat HMS Discovery. There are two cities named after Vancouver: one is in British Columbia, Canada, and the other is in Washington State, USA - 300 miles apart.

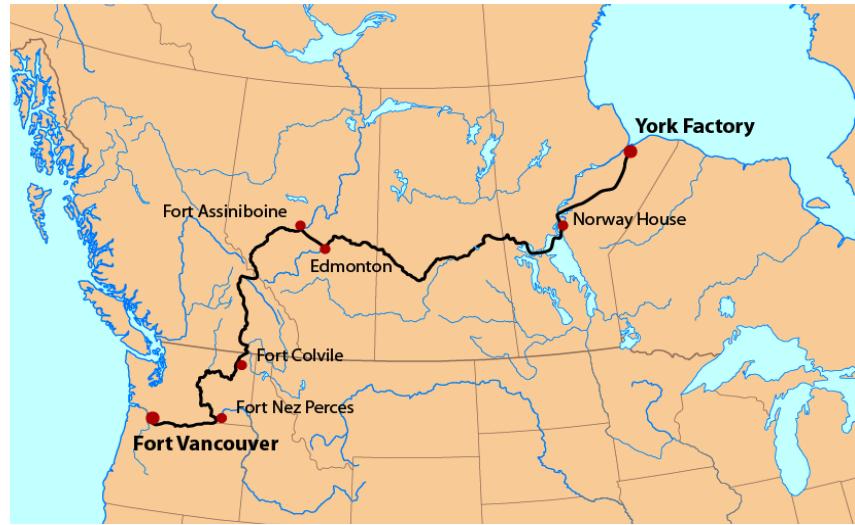


Map of the Pacific Northwest "jointly occupied" by the US and Britain. The influence of Fort Vancouver and its secondary stations extended from Russian America to Mexican ruled Alta California. Taken from Wikipedia



The Hudson Bay Company (HBC)

The Hudson Bay Company (HBC), founded in 1670, was once the largest English company in North America. It was originally called the “Governors and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson’s Bay”. What a mouthful! It became immensely wealthy by hiring fur trappers to make beaver hats. HBC once controlled the largest land mass in North America called Rupert’s land (15% of present day North America - see previous page). From York Factory on Hudson’s Bay it controlled North American fur trading for hundreds of years with a vast network of trading posts.



Route of the HBC York Factory Express, 1820s to 1840s. Modern political boundaries shown. From Pfly.

HBC traded wool blankets (called HB point blankets) with Native Americans for beaver pelts. In 1779 other traders founded the NWCo in Montreal (controlled from Britain). By 1821 the British government forcibly merged NWCo with HBC. 175 posts were reduced to 52 for efficiency. Employees did not share in HBC profits until after the merger. A pretty modern business model! Sir George Simpson directed HBC after the merger from 1826 to 1860. HBC had 25 Chief Factors (McLaughlin was one) and 28 Chief Traders, all of whom shared in company profits. HBC was a hierarchy with officers investing to enter the company. A Chief Factor’s average income was £720 a year, when a farm laborer made £20 a year.

McLaughlin discouraged settlers in order to keep a monopoly of trade with Native Americans. But in 1838 settlers to the West started trickling in along the Oregon Trail. And in 1843 the first successful large wagon train reached Oregon bringing around 1,000 settlers into the Willamette valley. In 1846 the Oregon treaty (settling competing American and British claims to the Oregon Country) pushed HBC out of present day Oregon and Washington states, and making HBC unprofitable in that area.

From 1820 to 1870 HBC issued their own paper money denominated in pounds sterling. In 1869, HBC refused a US offer of \$10 million for their land. HBC instead transferred Rupert’s Land back to the British government who in turn gave it to Canada.

Today HBC is a retail company. In 2012, they had an IPO, and in the following year they acquired Saks Fifth Avenue. They also own Lord and Taylor. Based in Toronto, their shares trade around \$9. In 2017 they lost \$500 million, they have assets of around \$12 billion and their market capitalization is \$1.8 billion.

Fort Vancouver

This was established in 1825 by McLaughlin. It relocated in 1829. It was the headquarters for the Western HBC. In 1866 it burned to the ground. Present day buildings are reconstructions, operated by the National Park Service.



Fort Vancouver 1845 Painting by Lt. Henry Warre



Photo of Fort Vancouver 1859

Yearly, trade goods and supplies arrived from London via the Pacific, or overland from the yearly York Factory express (see map on previous page) to the Fort. In its heyday Fort Vancouver had 34 outposts, 24 ports, and six ships.

Competitors of HBC were the NWCo, and the Pacific Fur Company of John Jacob Astor. In 1818 an Anglo-American treaty made the area "free and open" to English and American people, but the 1846 Oregon treaty excluded the British.

The fort was 750' by 450' with 20' high palisades. It had 24 buildings and the Chief Factor's residence. Outside were 60 other homes and gardens, fields, and a shipyard. Within the fort grounds they kept a one year supply of food in case the yearly supply ship or wagons did not reach them.



National Park Service painting of Fort Vancouver by Richard Schlect

The painting above shows the fort palisade enclosing buildings, and also other buildings and gardens outside the fort. In the background is the Willamette River. The National Park Service says Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is an oasis of green space and history in the midst of the bustling City of Vancouver, Oregon.



Fort Vancouver Modern reconstruction showing palisade and single corner tower.



Chief Factor's House Photo by Christopher Communications, from National Park Service. For highest ranking Fort Officer.



INDIAN TRADE SILVER DOUBLE HEART FROM GUTHMAN ESTATE. HUDSON BAY CO STAMP. EX: JOHN KRALJEVITCH. 29 X 41 MM

1503

This Indian Trade Silver is from the Guthman Estate. There are many fakes, but this is genuine. This has a Hudson Bay Stamp (HB monogram top left). This is a double heart, an Irish device.

Hudson Bay Company would pay these to Native American, or other trappers, (who would pin them to their coats) in return for skins. After being out in the wild for a time they would come into a Hudson's Bay trading post and use them to pay for a bottle of wine, food, traps, a night's stay, etc. The ultimate objective was to keep the trappers coming back, so that Indian trade silver was a little like the old song, "I sold my soul to the company store".

Beaver fur - what was the big deal all about?

Early beaver hats were felted from the beaver's underbelly fur. Felting is done by mixing together fibers, heating, wetting and pressing them. Animal fur has microscopic barbs which lock together with heat and moisture. Beaver fur was number one because it had more of these barbs than other fibers.

Beaver felt hats were popular between around 1550 and 1850 because they could be easily steamed to make various shapes, they were virtually waterproof, and lasted five to ten times as long as wool felt. Beaver felt went out of fashion around 1850 when black shiny silk top hats came into fashion. Today the most expensive western hats are 100% beaver felt. Look inside on the head band: if it says 1000X it means 100% beaver felt, if it says 500X it means 50% beaver felt. A 1000X hat will often cost thousands of dollars.



Beaver Skin – the paler fur at the edges is underbelly fur.

John Jacob Astor was the American equivalent of HBC. He was born Johann Jakob Astor in Walldorf, Germany (guess what the Waldorf Astoria Hotel was named after?) In 1784 at the age of twenty he emigrated to New York City to join his brother's butcher shop. A serendipitous meeting with a fur trader on his ship passage over motivated him to buy hides from Native Americans, process them and resell them.

He contracted with NWCo in 1790 and shipped furs from Montreal to Europe. His agents were ruthless. He established the American Fur Company (AFC) in 1808 but during the 1812 war switched to opium trading. In 1817 US Congress barred foreign fur traders. His AFC then bounced back, dominating trading around the Great Lakes.

In 1830, Astor foresaw the decline in fur trade and rise in New York real estate. He invested his profits in New York City real estate. When he died in 1848 he was the first American multimillionaire, worth \$20 million. Estimates for the top five wealthiest Americans ever are inexact especially because of different

inflation indices. But here is a likely approximate list in today's values: Rockefeller \$340B, Carnegie \$310B, Ford \$190B, Vanderbilt \$155B, Astor \$130B, Girard \$110B.



Portrait of John Jacob Astor by John Wesley Jarvis circa 1825

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COOK'S ARRIVAL IN HAWAII SESQUICENTENNIAL 1928 COMMEM \$1/2. COOK/NATIVE CHIEF. 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS PCGS MS 64

1427

14 Historical Coins – CC 20

Hawaii Sesquicentennial 1928.

Background.

In 1927, Hawaiians conjured up the idea of starting a James Cook memorabilia collection to be housed in the Hawaiian archives. With an eye to 1928 as the 150th anniversary of the discovery of Hawaii by Cook (in 1778, Hawaii was unknown to the western world). Hawaii requested a commemorative coin. It was to be the only classic commemorative issued for a US possession. Commander Houston was the Hawaiian delegate to Congress and introduced the bill. The US Fine Arts Commission chose Chester Beach to be the sculptor.

The Coin.

The obverse of the coin shows a bust of Captain James Cook facing left. In the left field is the inscription CAPT. JAMES COOK DISCOVERER OF HAWAII. To the right of CAPT. is a compass needle. Within a border is the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HALF DOLLAR. On each side of HALF DOLLAR are four pyramids, representing the eight largest Hawaiian volcanic islands. The inscription in the right field is IN GOD WE TRUST. In the lower right field is a CB monogram for Chester Beach the sculptor. A nice touch is the replacement of denticulations inside the rim with waves, referring to Cook's nautical life.

Juliette May Fraser, a prominent Honolulu artist, sketched the obverse design. She used a Wedgewood cameo of Cook, owned by Bruce Cartwright Jr., President of the Captain Cook Sesquicentennial Commission (CCSC). Chester Beach (1881-1956) sculpted from the sketch. Beach trained in the US and Paris, and set up a studio in New York City from 1906 to 1951 as a sculptor. As well as large sculptures, he also sculpted the 1923 S Monroe Doctrine commemorative half dollar, the 1925 Lexington Concord commemorative half dollar and the 1935 Hudson commemorative half dollar.

The reverse shows a facing Hawaiian warrior in full regalia with a feather cloak, looking left and holding an outstretched right arm in welcome. He stands on top of a hill, representing Hawaii rising from obscurity, and holds a spear in his left hand. In the left field is a village of grass huts along Waikiki Beach at the foot of Diamond Head, a famous overlook in Honolulu. A coconut tree (representing romance in Hawaii) hangs over the warrior. In the left lower field is the inscription: E PLURIBUS UNUM over a feather plume. The legend below reads 1778 – 1928. There are lines from the warrior's cap passing horizontally into the palm leaves, as well as a similar line passing southwest from his armpit. These are original die polish marks found on all genuine coins.

Bruce Cartwright Jr. designed the reverse, perhaps influenced by the King Kamehameha I statue (see next page). The design was then sketched out by Juliette Mary Fraser, and sculpted by Chester Beach.

This is the King of Commemoratives. Only three classic commemoratives had distributions of 10,000 or less (the Hudson, the Hawaii, and the Spanish Trail).

Introducing the coin.

Using information from the NGC (Numismatic Guarantee Corporation) and PCGS (Professional Coin Grading Service) websites (both grading companies that put coins in holders and guarantee them), I have synthesized this table:

Chart of Certified coins and prices average of PCGS and NGC March 2018

Coin	Certified	NGC Details	MS63	MS64	MS65
Hudson, NY,	5,363	108	\$850	\$950	\$1,225
Hawaii	4,608	308	\$2,625	\$3,075	\$4,500
Spanish Trail	5,589	208	\$1,225	\$1,338	\$1,450

MS 63, MS 64, etc. are different grades. As can be seen, Hawaii has the fewest coins, and consequently the biggest prices. These numbers require some explanation: Hawaii distributed 10,000 coins but 450 of these (Swiatek and Breen's Encyclopedia of 1981 say 250) were reserved as presentation pieces. Additionally, the Bank of Hawaii reserved at least 1,500 pieces to give to their staff. This leaves a net distribution of 8,050 for a highly sought after coin. Now a little diversion, which may or may not be of interest to you!

Of the 450 reserved coins, 50 were sandblast proofs. It was planned that half of the remaining coins be distributed in Hawaii and the other half be sold in the continental USA. However, according to the NGC website, so many Hawaiians bought the coins that well under half the remainder were available for the US. Thus, under 4,000 coins were available for sale in US, hence its rarity.

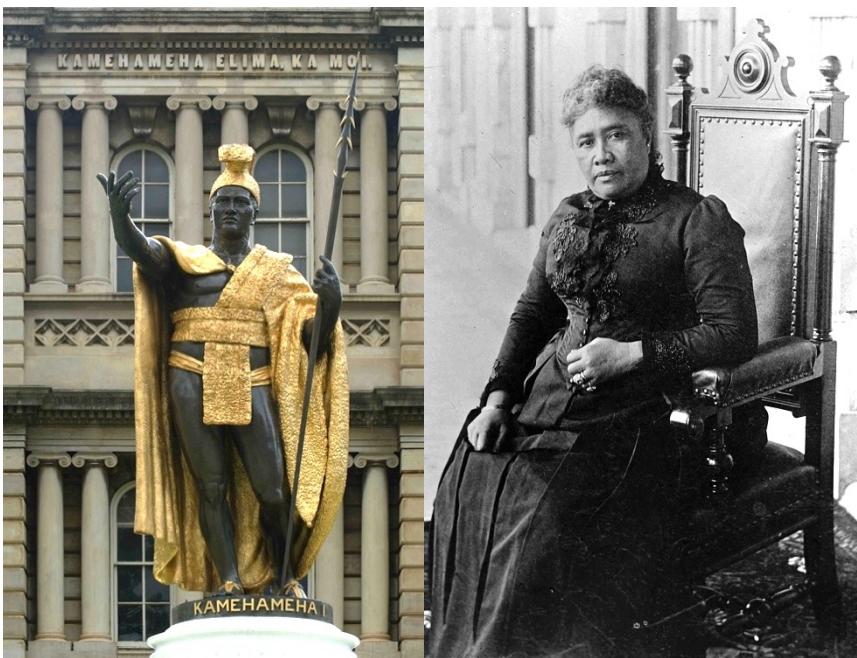
The Honolulu bank president displayed a card for employees to sign up to buy one of the 1,500 coins cheaply for \$1 to \$1.50 (public cost was \$2), together with a sample coin. But when a bank employee stole the coin, the president became enraged that he never sold them, and kept the coins. In 1986 Bowers and Merena Auction House sold 136 of these coins consigned from the Bank.

When you see in the chart that 4,608 coins have been certified that does not mean 4,608 are in existence. As you can see from the chart, an MS64 coin in a graded capsule or "slab", if upgraded to MS65, could make a 50% profit. A species of numismatists called "crack-out artists" exists. They are highly skilled at grading, and can see what you and I cannot - minuscule differences in the overall appeal of a specimen. When they decide that an MS64 is in the top quarter or so of the MS64 graded population, they will then resubmit the same coin over and over again to the two main grading services (NGC and PCGS) hoping that it makes MS65. They will think nothing of resubmitting it a dozen times, which makes it look as though there are 11 more coins than there are in the census. In other words, the census reflects the number of coins submitted for grading and re-grading, not the number of coins known.

Even in the continental US in 1928, \$2 for a commemorative coin was a lot of money, and the highest price asked so far for a commemorative half dollar. Factory wages in 1928 were 50¢ an hour, so \$2 was half a day's work, and likely Hawaiian wages were lower.

So the Philadelphia Mint struck 10,000 coins. Around half were shipped to the Captain Cook Sesquicentennial Commission (CCSC) via the Bank of Hawaii in

Honolulu in 1928. The remainder were sold in continental US. Sandblast proofs have been counterfeited by sandblasting regular strike coins, but the sandblast finish can be detected using a microscope looking inside nicks and scratches. Sandblast proofs are worth almost ten times a regular strike.



Left: Kamehameha I first monarch, Right Queen Lill'uokalani last monarch.



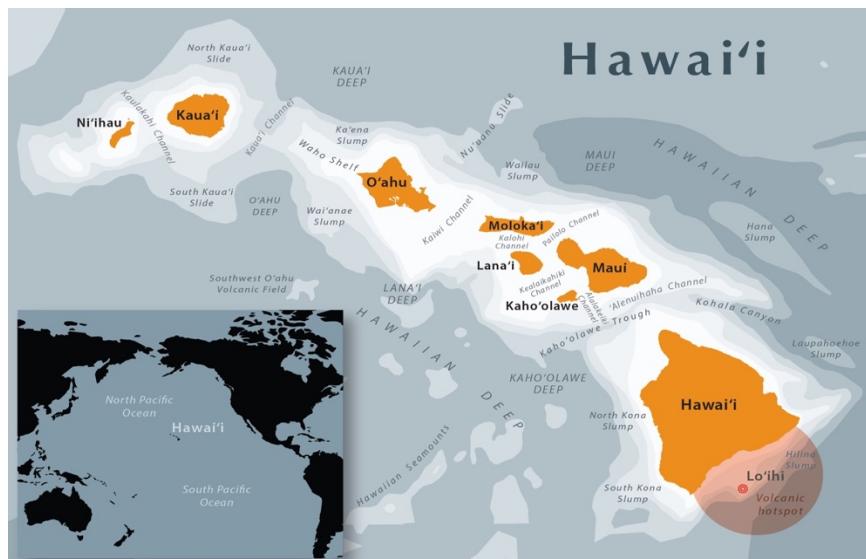
Iolani Palace, traditional home of Hawaii monarch, later became Republic Capitol

Hawaii

Hawaii is a volcanic archipelago, comprising hundreds of Polynesian islands over 1,500 miles. Today it has 1.5 million residents. The capital, Honolulu, is on O'ahu Island. The largest island is Hawaii. Temperatures are 65°- 88° F at sea level, though snow can fall on their mountains – Mauna Kea is 13,796' high.

After Cook discovered Hawaii in 1778 it remained independent. In 1819 King Kamehameha I united the islands under his rule. In the 1820s numerous Christian missionaries travelled to Hawaii, proselytizing and dominating Hawaii. In 1826, the US recognized Hawaiian independence.

In 1874 two kings in succession died without heirs. This led to rioting and to intervention by the US and by England. They named Kalakaua as King. But in 1887 the US reduced Kalakaua to a puppet. After he died in 1891, his wife, Queen Lill'uskalani, tried to become absolute monarch. The Committee of Safety, a 13-member group (composed mostly of Hawaiian subjects and American citizens as well as foreign residents in the Kingdom of Hawaii) planned and carried out the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1893. This was the goal of President Grover Cleveland's administration. It was not until 1898 that the United States Congress approved a joint resolution of annexation creating the U.S. Territory of Hawaii. Hawaii became a state in 1959.



Main Island and undersea terrain of Hawaiian Islands, from Wikipedia.

Captain James Cook (1728 – 1779).

James Cook was born in Yorkshire to a Scottish farm laborer. He was obviously a bright lad because his father's employer paid for him to attend school. At the age of 16 Cook worked (unsuccessfully) as a shop boy, then moved to Whitby, on the Yorkshire coast. At the age of 18 he was apprenticed in the merchant navy for three years. When he was 23 he passed his navigation exams and three years

later volunteered for the Royal Navy, realizing he would rise quicker during the Seven Years war with France (1756-1763). No! He did not predict that it would last seven years!

Aboard HMS Eagle he saw promotions, and then next year was briefly master of a small cutter. In 1757 he passed his exams as a Royal Navy master navigator, then joined HMS Solebay, and then HMS Pembroke. Britain realized they could not sail into the St. Lawrence River while the French owned Louisbourg, the island at the head of the river, controlled access. Cook participated in the capture of Louisbourg in 1758 and in the siege of Quebec in 1759. He also showed great expertise as a cartographer (mapper).



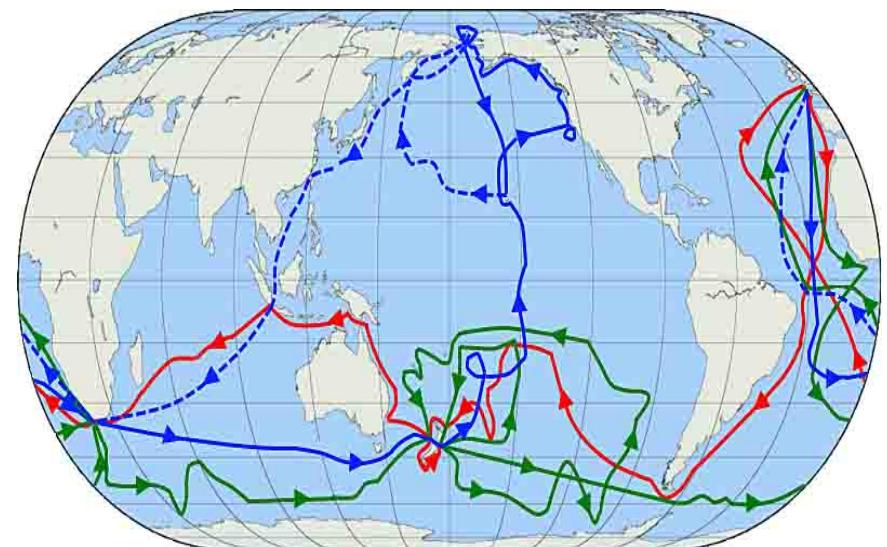
Left:Cook's Portrait by Dance-Holland 1775. Right:Cook's statue in Greenwich, London

During 1760–1767 he mapped the Newfoundland coast. His maps were the first large scale surveys using precise triangulation of land outlines. The Admiralty noticed, and in 1766 engaged him to command a voyage to the Pacific at a time when the problem of longitude had only just been solved (in 1759) with Harrison's fourth clock (a large pocket watch called H4). However, it was a number of years before H4 became standard naval issue.

On Cook's first voyage in 1768-1771 he had no chronometer on board his ship, the HMS Endeavor, to calculate his longitudinal position. He sailed to New Zealand and mapped its coastline, reaching Australia, unknown to the west. With him was Joseph Banks, the aristocratic botanist who collected specimens and published the multivolume folio book "Banks's Florilegium". Cook mapped Australia's east coast but did not circumnavigate Australia. He stopped at Batavia (Jakarta today) where many crew developed malaria, then returned home. On return he was promoted to Commander (just below Captain).



Harrison H4



Routes of Captain James Cook's voyages. First voyage shown in red, second voyage in green, third voyage in blue. Route of Cook's crew following his death is shown as a dashed blue line.



HMS Resolution and HMS Discovery in Tahiti

In 1772 – 1775 Cook was sent on a second expedition to answer the question “how big is Australia?” Commanding HMS Resolution, he used a copy of Harrison’s H4 chronometer to determine longitude. With this he was able to do an eastbound circumnavigation of the world crossing the Antarctic circle, though he still did not circumnavigate Australia. Upon arrival in England he was made FRS (Fellow of the Royal Society – a high academic award reserved only for elite scientists). To this day the Royal Society is permitted only to elect up to 52 new members, and up to 10 new Foreign Members each year.

Cook volunteered for a third voyage 1776 – 1779 on HMS Resolution, supposedly to locate the northwest passage from the Pacific side. However, the real reason was PR (public relations) - to return a Tahitian, Omai, to his home.

In 1778, Cook discovered Hawaii, unknown to the West at the time. He then sailed to Oregon, then north to Vancouver Island. Cook mapped the coast all the way to the Bering Strait (between Russia and the US) which would indeed become the western approach to the final Northwest Arctic Passage. Cook entered into the Chukchi Sea, north of the Bering Strait, but was obstructed by pack ice so had to leave. He also identified the Cook inlet – the present-day bay leading to Anchorage, Alaska.

Cook then returned to Hawaii in 1779. He was attacked and killed while attempting to kidnap Kalaniopu'u, a Hawaiian chief, in order to reclaim a cutter stolen from one of his ships. Over the next year deputies returned to England and completed documentation of the voyage.

To map sea and land navigators needed latitude (position on a horizontal geographical scale), which had been done for centuries using quadrants. But in 1703, a British fleet including the ship, HMS Association, was wrecked off the Scilly Isles with enormous loss of life and ships, all because longitude (position on a vertical geographical scale) was not accurately known. The British parliament pledged a huge prize for the person who could solve the problem of longitude. It was John Harrison who solved the problem using super-accurate clocks called chronometers. Cook had used the lunar distance method in his first voyage and a chronometer in his second voyage, mapping huge coastlines accurately for the first time. Cook’s posthumous atlas was published in 1784.



Coin retrieved from the shipwreck HMS Association

Cook’s biggest achievement was his safety record. Previously, ships on long voyages would often lose half their men by the time they returned (often from scurvy, now known to be caused by vitamin C deficiency). Cook insisted on fresh food for his sailors, and during his first circumnavigation lost no men to scurvy – a major accomplishment. He also insisted on cleanliness, resulting in lower rates of dysentery and typhus. Dysentery was caused by fecal-oral contact, so could be eliminated by defecating at the head so that sewage went straight into the sea and did not contaminate anyone on board ship. Cook instituted severe penalties for sailors endangering others e.g. defecating inside rather than at the head, not being clean, falling asleep on watch, or refusing to follow orders. Typhus was spread by lice, which were transmitted by clothing. By insisting on clean, regularly changed clothing and head shaving, lice had less opportunity to infect sailors. Again these simple public health measures saved thousands of lives.



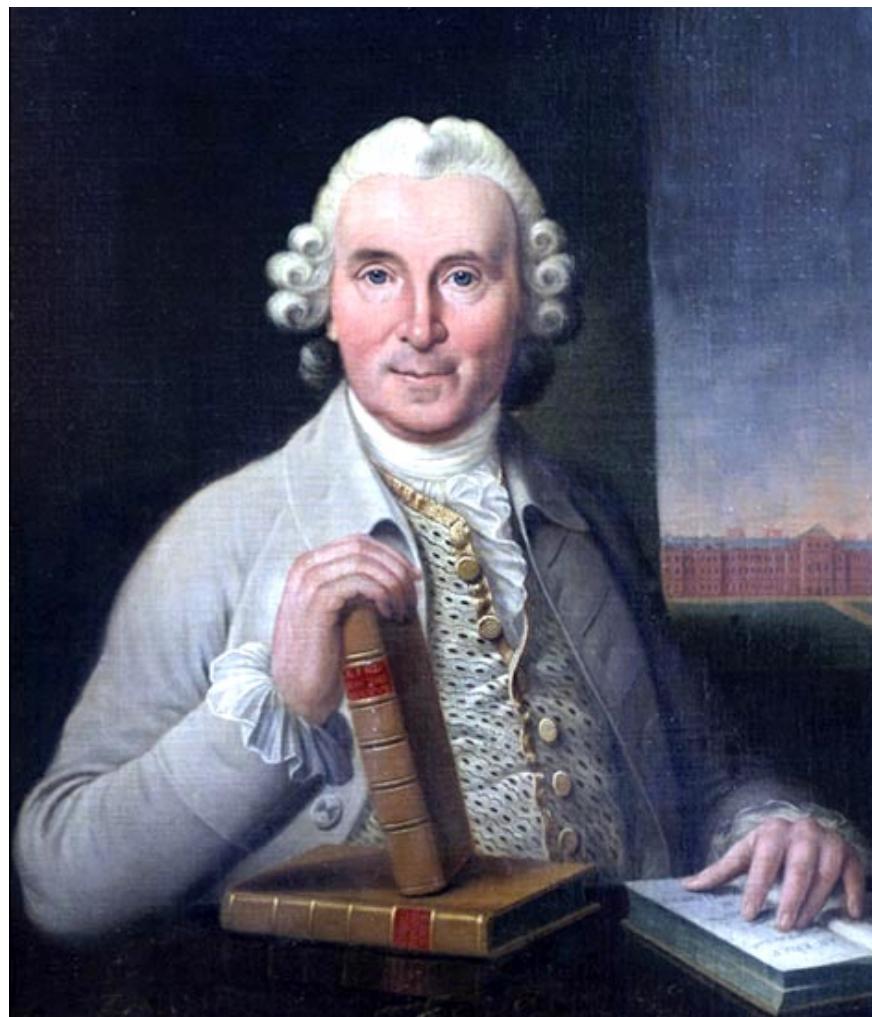
New Zealand produced medal honoring Captain James Cook.

James Lind (1716-1794) was a pioneer public health physician for the British Navy. He pushed lime juice to prevent scurvy (hence British sailors were called Limeys; Brits to this day are still called Limeys). Lind also used below deck fumigation with sulfur and arsenic to remove lice.

In 1753, Lind published his treatise on scurvy. It was ignored by most, but not by Cook, who valued his men and felt the British Navy would be better off keeping its men rather than losing them each voyage to disease. Cook insisted on his men eating sauerkraut on his first voyage, which also worked to prevent scurvy, as cabbage also contained vitamin C.

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Painting of James Lind by Chalmers

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US COMMEMORATIVE \$ 1/2, HUGUENOT-WALLOON TERCENTENARY 1924. COLIGNY & WILLIAM / NIEW NEDERLAND 30.6MM, 12.5 GRAMS AU 58

481

14 Historical Coins – CC 12 Huguenot-Walloon Tercentenary 1924.

The Background.

In 1624, the Huguenots and Walloons sailed from Holland in the ship “Nieuw Nederland” establishing New Netherland in America.

In 1922, Rev. Dr. John Baer Stoudt, a numismatist approached Congress. He was the Director of the Huguenot-Walloon Tercentenary Commission (HWTC). This was, as Breen called it, “the front for the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America”. Stoudt wanted a commemorative coin, and by God he was going to get it!



Admiral Gaspard de Coligny

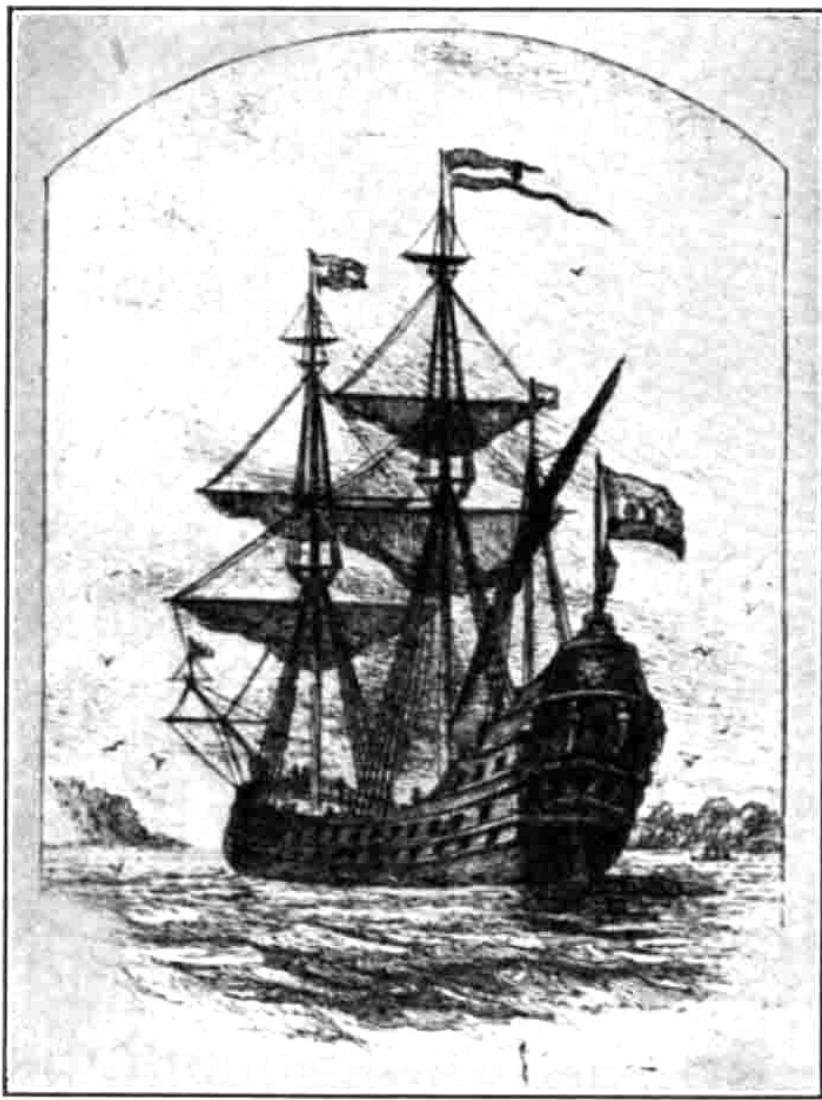
The Coin.

The obverse shows the conjoined busts right of Admiral Gaspard de Coligny in the foreground and Prince William the Silent behind. The legend reads UNITED•STATES•OF•AMERICA above and HUGUENOT•HALF•DOLLAR below. The inscription IN GOD WE TRUST is in the right field. You can see an incuse M for George Morgan the Mint Chief Engraver is on the bust truncation.

The reverse shows the three-masted ship Nieuw Nederland in full sail left (Westwards) on the sea. The legend reads HUGUENOT•WALLOON•TERCENTENNARY above, and FOUNDING•OF•NEW-NETHERLAND below. Inscribed in the left field is 1624 and in the right field 1924.



William I, (The Silent) Prince of Orange



THE SHIP NEW NETHERLAND
(From James Grant Wilson's "Memorial History of New York")

Introducing the Coin.

In 1923, Pennsylvania Congressional Representative Fred Gerner, of Huguenot descent, introduced the Huguenot-Walloon tercentenary commemorative bill drawing a comparison with the 1920 Pilgrim Tercentenary, with the Pilgrim on the obverse and ship on the reverse. Congressional opponents said government fundraising for a church group violated the First Amendment. But the US Congress ignored them and the bill passed. 300,000 coins were authorized.

Stoudt, also an amateur artist, suggested designs from which George Morgan, the Mint's Chief Engraver, made a model. The press at the time, and books since have both commented on how the two men depicted (Coligny and William the Silent, both prominent Protestant Calvinists) had no connection to the 1624 settlement. Nevertheless, Admiral Coligny was a French Huguenot martyr, who had been assassinated by Roman Catholics. And William the Silent, a Dutch Walloon Calvinist, was also assassinated by the Roman Catholics. What better metaphor than a Huguenot martyr and a Walloon martyr to represent the aspirations of Huguenot-Walloon immigrants? After all, this was what the HWTC was all about!

But the appropriation of the US Mint for a religious celebration was certainly ill-advised and probably scuttled Minnesota Representative Ole Kvale's attempt to get a Viking Commemorative in 1925 - even more so because Kvale was a Lutheran pastor.

James Earle Fraser on the Commission of Fine Arts did not approve of Morgan's models. The commission then told Morgan to have Fraser supervise his redoing the models. Morgan, famous for the Morgan dollar, was assistant engraver at the US mint 1876-1917. He had waited over 40 years to succeed Chief Engraver Charles Barber. Morgan finally achieved Chief Engraver status in 1917 until he died in 1925. He was 78 when he made these models. And now Morgan suffered the indignity of being supervised by an outside artist.

Swiatek and Breen say in their 1981 commemorative book (see references), "*Morgan had originally told Congress...the work should be done entirely within the Mint, citing Barber's tired old lie about how outside artists invariably made their coin models in too high relief to stack up properly*". Of course, commemorative coins are not stacked! Additionally, starting with the Peace Dollar in 1921, all coin dies were made on the Janvier reducing lathe which could change relief at will.

The Fifth National Bank of New York distributed the 87,000 coins which sold for one dollar each to the public. Most of the public that bought them did so because of pressure from the Federal Council of churches. 55,000 were returned to the Treasury who placed them in circulation. 80 coins were reserved for assay. This made a total of 142,080 distributed. Breen says John Sinnock (Chief US Mint Engraver 1925-1947) was given one proof coin – this has never surfaced.

Stoudt, being a numismatist and director of the HWTC, asked Moritz Wormser, American Numismatic Association President, to help market the coin. But numismatists were not very interested. The Numismatist magazine debated the coin at some length. The general feeling was that the busts were unrelated to the 1624 event, and that the government minting for the Church of Christ was improper.

The Huguenot-Walloon Tercentenary Celebrations.

A book was published entitled "The Huguenot-Walloon Tercentenary" by HWTC secretary Antonia N. Froendt. In 64 pages it describes the story of the Huguenot Walloon settlement and intrigue of the HWTC. The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America formed another organization to administer the celebrations called the Huguenot-Walloon New Netherland Commission (HWNN Commission). The council republished the book in paperback in 2012.

The HWNN Commission was incorporated as a huge organization. The US President, the Dutch Queen, the Belgian King and the French President were all honorary chairpersons. They had another eight vice-chairpersons, and twelve advisors - and these were all honorary! The separate working commission had two chairpersons, eight vice-chairpersons, an executive committee of fifteen, a treasurer, director (Stoudt), and secretary (Froendt).

HWTC held its celebration in New York City from May 17th through May 22nd, 1924. They dedicated the Hainaut Memorial monument in Battery Park, gave speeches, more speeches, and then more speeches. They dedicated a New Jersey Huguenot Memorial Church. Huguenot societies in upstate New York assembled and entertained dignitaries. Many travelled to Europe to give more speeches and meet with Huguenot descendants, and then gave even more speeches!

The US also printed commemorative postage stamps for the occasion. The one cent depicts the Nieuw Nederland ship, the two cent depicts the landing in Fort Orange, Florida, and the five cent depicts the Hainault monument in Florida.



History of Huguenot-Walloon Colonization in America.

An extract from Froendt's book follows on the early Huguenot colonies: *"As early as 1562 Admiral Coligny of France made an attempt to gain a foothold in America, and provide thereby a refuge for his fellow "heretics" whose long decades of martyrdom he foresaw only too clearly. Under Jean Ribaut... 150 men set out from Dieppe in "two Dutch 3-masters,". The expedition arrived safely at the mouth of the present St. John's River, Florida.... A stone column carven*

with the arms of France was erected and the flotilla cruised along the coast to investigate further site for settlements. On what is now Parris Island (South Carolina), "Charlesfort", a crude log stockade was built, which was eventually abandoned.... A colony subsequently planted at "Fort Caroline" on the St. Johns river, was massacred to a man by the Spaniards, in 1565, after Ribaut's fleet had been wrecked off the coast in a severe storm.

Another protagonist of colonization was William the Silent, Stadholder of the Netherlands.... under whose leadership the "eighty years' War" for freedom from Spanish overlordship was begun. His premature death by assassination (1584) prevented his taking any active part in the early colonial enterprises...."

Martin Luther started the Protestant reformation in 1517 with his 95 theses nailed to a church door. His work was continued by John Calvin. The Roman Catholic counter-reformation was started with the council of Trent from 1545 to 1563 and was pursued especially by Roman Catholic Jesuits.

Spain and France were Roman Catholic. England withdrew from the Catholic Church for political reasons in 1534 and established the Church of England in its place. Over time the Church of England became increasingly Protestant in its theological orientation. The Low Countries and German States were the locations where many of the confrontations took place between Catholics and Protestants. Roman Catholic Spain ruled the Netherlands.

Catholic Inquisitions burnt Protestants (men and women alike) at the stake in Spain and in France. In 1568 William I (The Silent) Prince of Orange, a Protestant, revolted against Spanish Roman Catholic rule. Fighting continued until 1648 when Spain recognized the Northern Netherlands independence (present day Netherlands). The Spanish Netherlands (present day Belgium) remained Catholic.

Huguenots were French Calvinist Protestants who fled from persecution in France. Walloons were French speaking Calvinist Protestants who fled from persecution in the Spanish Netherlands (present day Belgium).

The Roman Catholic Church instituted the inquisition. Especially after the St. Bartholomew massacre of Protestant Huguenots in Paris in 1572, Huguenots and Walloons started emigrating in the late 1500's to Southeast England and Protestant Holland, including my own family.

In the 1600's, many of them came to America. In 1609 the VOC sent an explorer, sea Captain Henry Hudson to explore land in America in the ship "Half Moon". VOC stood for Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie (Dutch East India Company in English) which started in 1602, as a chartered company. It was the first to issue dividend paying stock, and the first international company. It became so powerful it had its own army and navy of 10,000 men. They built 1,500 ships over 200 years. VOC held the spice monopoly for the 1600s and shipped five times the tonnage in goods of its nearest competitor, the English East India Company.



Lion Dollar produced from 1575 most popular trade coin till Spanish milled dollar 1732



New Netherland map from 1684



New Amsterdam painting from 1664 by Johannes Vingboons



Island of Run in Indonesia

In 1621, the Dutch formed the Dutch West India Company (DWICo) (different from the famous VOC), and in 1624 they convinced 300 Walloon families to

colonize New Netherland between British Virginia and French Canada. The company wanted to capitalize on the American fur trade. In 1626 they installed Peter Minuit as Director General, who bought Manhattan Island from local Native Americans for 60 guilder's or 24 lion dollars' worth of trinkets. This of course simplified what actually happened. Native Americans did not recognize land ownership in their culture or the act of buying or selling land. They simply agreed to let the 30 families stay on the land in return for gifts. By the late 1600s the English and Dutch had been competing for many years. There were three Anglo-Dutch wars, in 1652-1654, 1665-1667 and 1672-1674.

In 1664, the Duke of York (King Charles II's brother, and future King James II of England) attacked the poorly defended New Amsterdam (capital of the New Netherland colony) with four frigates. The English took over and New Amsterdam became New York. The surrender was formalized in 1667 concluding the second Anglo-Dutch war with the Treaty of Breda in which the Dutch took over Suriname (formerly Dutch Guyana in South America) and the island of Run (in present day Indonesia) from the English in return for Manhattan.

At the time the island of Run was the only place in the world where nutmeg was grown. It was then so valuable a spice that it was worth more than its weight in gold. The profit from this by far outstripped any profit from Manhattan.

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US COMMEMORATIVE \$ 1/2, LEXINGTON - CONCORD SESQUICENTENNIAL 1925. MINUTEMAN / LEXINGTON BELFRY 30.6MM, 12.5 GRAMS UNC

1182

14 Historical Coins – CC 13

Lexington Concord Sesquicentennial 1925

Background.

1775 marked the “shot heard round the world” – the first shot of the American Revolution. On hundred and fifty years later in 1925 separate committees from Lexington and from Concord both asked Chester Beach (the famous sculptor who had done the Monroe commemorative in 1923) to prepare models for a commemorative coin. He charged each town \$1,250. The Concord committee chose the Minuteman statue for the obverse and the Lexington committee chose the old belfry in Lexington for the reverse. The Mint, apparently happy with Beach’s wretched looking Monroe Doctrine half dollar (see page 141) had been recommending him to committees wanting a sculptor.

The Coin

The obverse shows the Minuteman statue standing facing, he holds a musket in his right hand and his left hand rests on a plow behind him on which is thrown his jacket. The legend reads *UNITED STATES OF AMERICA* above, and PATRIOT HALF DOLLAR below. Inscriptions in the left field say: CONCORD MINUTE-MAN, and in the right field IN GOD WE TRUST.

The reverse shows the old belfry in Lexington, with plain fields. The legend reads LEXINGTON-CONCORD SESQUICENTENNIAL 1775-1925. An inscription beneath the belfry reads: ▲ OLD BELFRY, LEXINGTON▲ . I am uncertain of the significance of small solid triangles before and after, perhaps artistic stops.



Minuteman statue by Daniel Chester French, erected 1875 in Concord, MA.

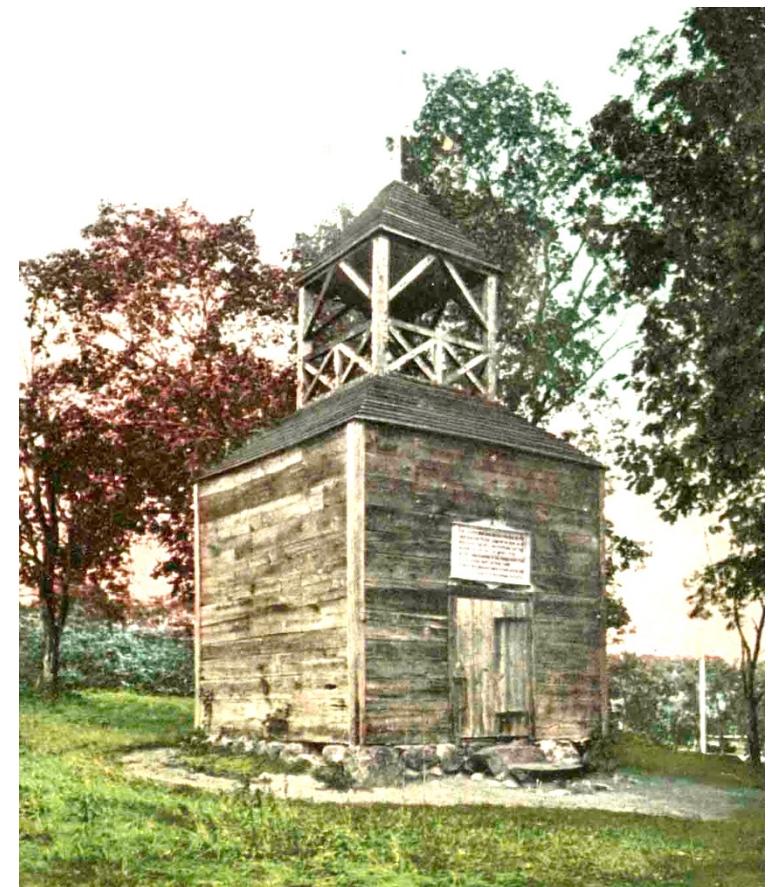
Introducing the Coin.

The two committees merged into the Lexington Concord Sesquicentennial Committee (LCSC). Beach's plaster models were submitted to the Commission on Fine Arts of which James Earle Fraser was the sculptor member. Fraser approved the designs but said the choice of subjects was “most unsuitable”. Congress approved 300,000 commemorative half dollar coins in 1925.

Daniel Chester French sculpted the original Minuteman statue which he finished in 1875, the centennial of the battle of Lexington Concord. He started the sculpture in 1873 when he was 23 years old. He stood the minuteman on a base inscribed with a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson's “Concord Hymn”:

*By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard round the world.*

Actually, Emerson was a Concord resident, and the shot was fired in Lexington not Concord! President Ulysses S. Grant officiated at the 1875 unveiling of French's statue with a crowd of 100,000.



The old belfry, Lexington, where Paul Revere rang the alarm April 19th, 1775

The old belfry (where Paul Revere rang the alarm on April 19th, 1775 alerting the Minutemen) was by a gale in 1909. French's sculpture was felt to be "immature" and Beach's reproductions according to Cornelius Vermeule (see references) showed no originality. Nevertheless, the whole is infinitely more pleasing to me than Beach's miserable Monroe commemorative half dollar, though not as good as his next commemorative, the Hawaiian commemorative half dollar.

The Philadelphia Mint struck 162,099 coins. The Concord National Bank and the Lexington Trust Company sold them for \$1 each in little wooden boxes with a rubber stamp of the Minuteman statue on one side and the old belfry on the other.

The Committee held the celebrations on Patriots day, April 19th, (actually extending from 18th to 20th) which had been celebrated as a state holiday in Massachusetts and Maine since 1894. Daniel French, the original Minuteman sculptor aged 75, was present at the ceremonies. During the ceremonies 39,000 coins sold in Lexington and 21,000 in Concord. As this was a national celebration most buyers were the patriotic public (especially in New England), rather than numismatists. Eighty-six coins were returned to the mint, but it is not known whether these were for melting or because they were somehow defective. Net distribution was 162,013. As usual Walter Breen says there was a proof in the Sinnock estate but "its present whereabouts is unknown".

Battles of Lexington and Concord.

The account of the Battles is taken from my book *Notable Notes*:

The battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775 were the first engagements between the British and the patriots. Despite American colonies paying less than 5% of the taxes the English did, patriot agitators cried "no taxation without representation". Of course the last thing they wanted was representation. Any colonist vote would be easily outvoted in England. Moreover, when Franklin was sent to England he was instructed not to push for representation.

Most colonists enjoyed a much better standard of living than the English living in England. The colonists became used to greater freedoms. Bostonians resented British army occupation and Boston became the hotbed of the Revolution.

After the French and Indian War 1757 – 1763 (called the Seven Years' War in Europe), Britain gained Canada but owed millions of pounds, and had to increase taxes to pay their war debts. It seemed only fair that American colonists should participate in the taxes. But the Americans resisted at every turn. Samuel Adams said, at the beginning of the revolution about one third of British North Americans were patriots, one third were pro-British, and the remaining third were neutral. Today it is thought the percentages were more like 40% patriots, 20% pro-British, and 40% neutral.

A number of factors led to the push for independence.

- Religious dissenters founded America. Colonial clergy did not accept the divine right of kings. They taught that wicked laws should be disobeyed, and preached that all men are equal.

- Economic dependence on England. Mercantilism was the old way; Adam Smith was the new way. (Mercantilism meant maximizing exports and maximizing specie held within a colonial mother country). But the British practiced "salutary neglect" i.e. were very lax about enforcing Mercantilism. Smuggling in America was not seen as a crime as it was in England. Smuggling was seen as evading unfair controls on colonial shipping. The Currency Act of 1764 forbade the Colonists to print paper money – this damaged the Colonial economy and ruined many. Colonists wanted economic freedom.
- In the Proclamation of 1763 George III forbade colonists from settling west of the Appalachians. This was done to decrease the cost of defense, decrease conflict with Native American, and to milk the lucrative fur trade. But many colonists had already bought these lands and resented the Proclamation.
- Liberal ideals of enlightenment engendered by writers like John Locke. Locke spoke of a social contract between people and government. He said if the government abused peoples' rights it should be overthrown. The new republicanism meant rule of law by a democratically elected government, not by a monarchy.
- New taxes e.g. 1764 sugar tax, 1765 Stamp Act and Quartering Act, 1767 Townshend Acts, 1773 Tea Act, and the 1774 Intolerable Acts.
- Many colonists were independent minded people. Emigration from England to America meant independence.
- Colonial legislatures were allowed to raise taxes, raise troops and pass laws. This made the colonies more politically independent already.
- Samuel Adams organized committees of correspondence to spread revolutionary propaganda.

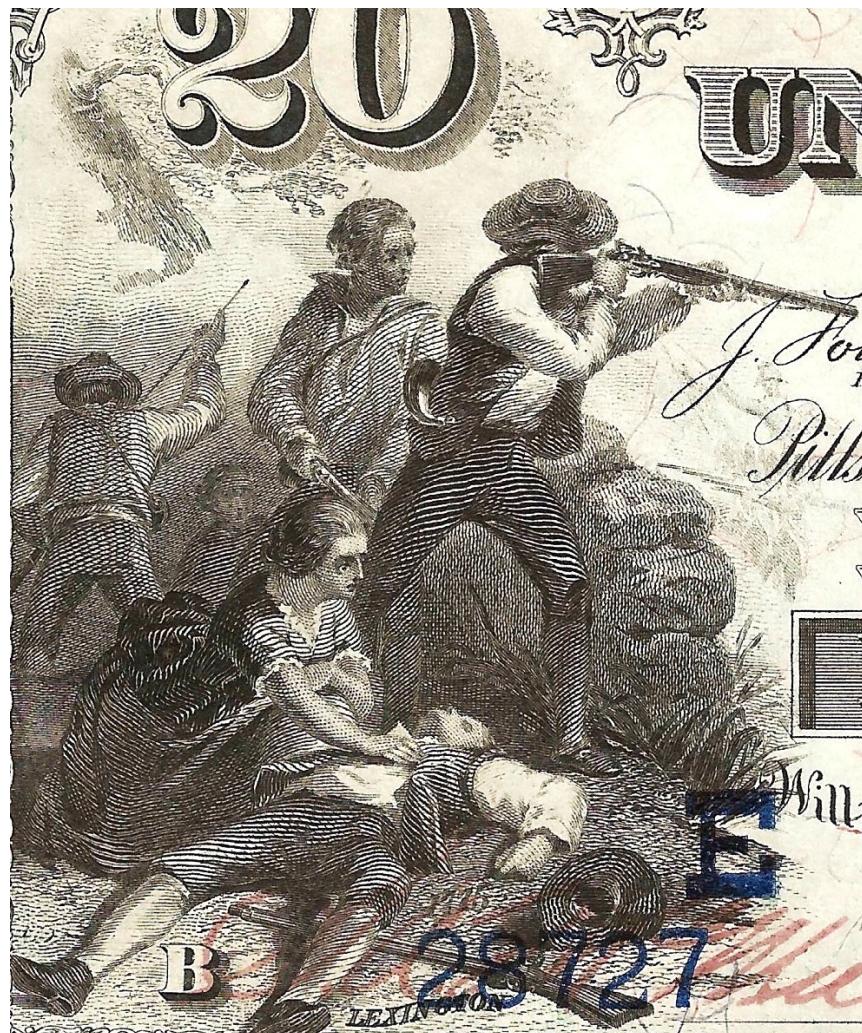
The push for independence emerged from increasing rules pressed onto an independently minded people with effective cheer leaders.

In April 1775 British General Thomas Gage was ordered to disarm colonial rebels who were known to have hidden weapons at Concord, and to imprison the leaders. A previous expedition to Salem had to retreat because of rebel militia. Gage knew a showdown was coming. On April 18th, he sent Major Mitchell out on night patrol to intercept Samuel Adams and John Hancock, the rebel leaders. This alerted local rebel intelligence workers.

Gage ordered British Lt. Col Francis Smith to Concord on April 19th, with sealed secret orders to seize the rebel armory at Concord. But rebel intelligence was so good that they knew this was coming, possibly through General Gage's wife, Margaret, a rebel sympathizer. Adams and Hancock had already fled from Boston to Concord.

Starting in the 1760s Committees of Safety appeared in many areas. They usually controlled the local militias, sent representatives to colonial assemblies, and planned for emergencies. The Committees of Safety communicated with the committees of correspondence, which were really an intelligence network. Paul Revere working for the "Committee of Public Safety" was really a rebel

intelligence man, recording troop movements, and communicating with others. They had a network of riders who alarmed groups to muster. The same idea had been used in earlier colonial times with the Indians.



Battle of Lexington April 19th 1775 by J.I. Pease from face of 2nd Charter \$20 National Bank Note. Notice 1775 at the bottom centrally, above "Lexington".

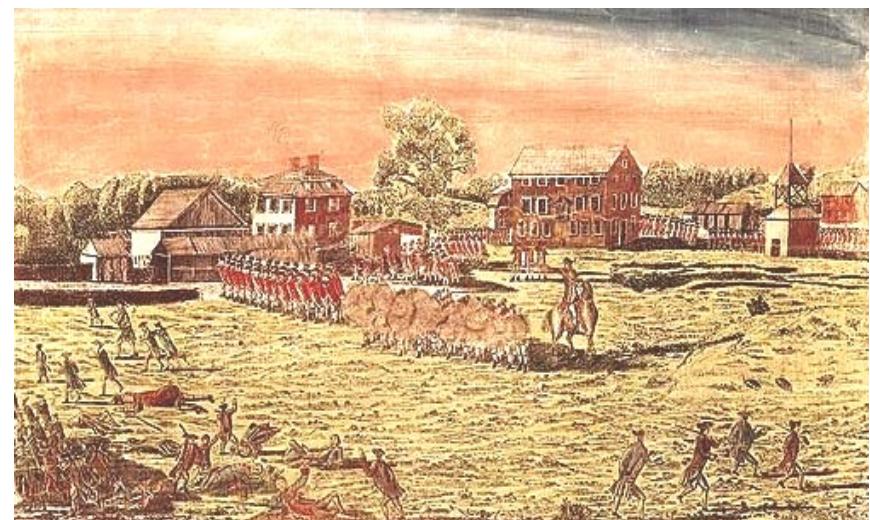
On the evening of April 18th, 1775, Paul Revere and William Dawes discovered troops moving by boat toward the Concord road, and rode to warn colonial militias along the way. They met with Adams and Hancock in Lexington and realized that 700 redcoats were too many just to arrest Adams and Hancock.

The redcoats disembarked into waist deep water at Cambridge at 2 am and marched 17 miles in wet gear towards Concord, not a propitious start! Greeting

the redcoats in Lexington at sunrise were 77 Lexington militia under Capt. John Parker. They stood on the village common with perhaps 100 spectators. A British officer, probably second-in-charge Major John Pitcairn, rode up and told them to lay down their arms and disperse. A shot was fired, not by the confronted men, but from outside, and to this day the identity of the person firing the first shot of the revolution is unknown. Then there was noisy confusion. The patriot militia commander, Capt. Parker, probably had tuberculous laryngitis (which causes hoarseness), so when he ordered his men to lay down their arms he was not heard. The militia ran, still holding their arms, and the redcoats charged. Eight militia died and ten were wounded; only one redcoat was wounded. Col Smith arrived after the action was over and ordered that they go to Concord.

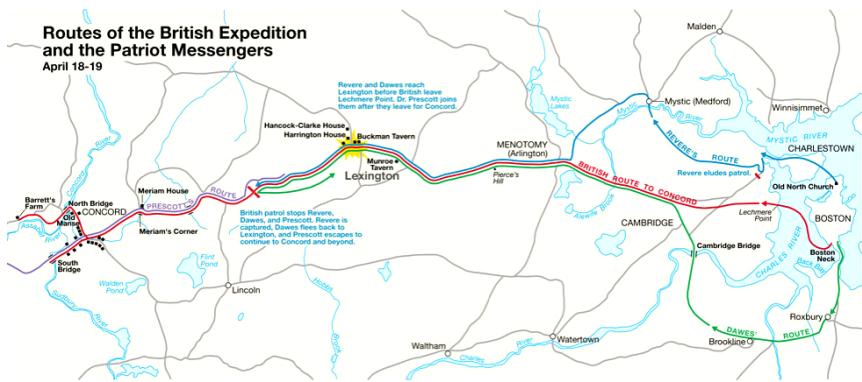
The Battle of Lexington engraving on the National Bank Note opposite was designed by Felix Darley (1822 - 1888), a self-taught artist who did thousands of picture engravings for the books of James Cooper, Charles Dickens, Washington Irving and others. The landing of the pilgrims was also Darley's design. The bottom spells out LEXINGTON. The date is 1775. Charles Burt engraved the Lexington vignette but the design was re-engraved for another \$20 National Bank Note by J.I. Pease, an engraver for the National Portrait Gallery, and for the American Bank Note Company.

The engraving depicts a young woman attending to a wounded militia on the green, while another militia fires, another reloads, and a fourth looks on. It is not likely that this is an accurate scene. First, when there was a lot of firing, little more than smoke could be seen, and very few details. Second, there was no description of any women on the green during the confrontation. And third, after the militia were wounded they were running for their lives not standing still. But the engraving does a fine job of patriotic artistry!



Battle of Lexington Engraving published by Amos Doolittle 1775, hand colored.

Col James Barrett in charge of only 250 minutemen militia was waiting at Concord. He decided not to defend Concord and led his men across the North Bridge to observe the redcoats. As Barrett marched, his numbers swelled to 400. The redcoats disabled three cannons, and threw 550lbs of musket balls into a pond, most of which the rebels subsequently recovered. British intelligence that the arsenal was at Barrett's farm would have been correct weeks earlier, but it had since been dispersed to surrounding fields.



National Park Service map showing routes of redcoats from Boston by water to Cambridge, then to Concord



Left: Margaret Gage, possible rebel sympathizer. Right: Lt. Col Francis Smith

The redcoats burnt some gun carriages. The fire spread to the village meeting house, attracting rebel Col. Barrett's attention, who advanced towards North Bridge. He ordered weapons loaded but not to fire unless fired upon by the 90 strong redcoat contingent of Captain Laurie on the other side of the bridge.

A panicked and exhausted redcoat fired a shot ("the shot heard round the world" – or was it the one at Lexington?). This was followed by two more shots. Two rebel militia on the bridge were killed and four wounded. Rebel Major Buttrick ordered the militia to fire back: "Fire for God's sake, fellow soldiers, fire!" They killed three redcoats and wounded nine. The badly outnumbered redcoats fled. British Col. Smith came to reconnoiter, and then returned to Concord to finish searching for weapons and to have lunch. Having lunch may have seemed like a good idea at the time, but it gave time for thousands of militia to assemble from a large area, using their "alarm and muster" network of riders.

But the real action was yet to come. Two thousand colonial militia harassed Col Smith's 700 men with recurrent confrontations and ambushes on their journey home. The myth is that they hid behind stone walls and used rifles to pick them off. This is not true – they only had muskets. Regular issue army rifles started in the 1850s. Col Smith was shot in the thigh and Maj. Pitcairn was unhorsed by a shot. Sir Hugh Percy's brigade had been sent out too late by the British to reinforce Col. Smith, but during the retreat he was useful.



British Viscount and General Thomas Gage by John Singleton Copley



General Sir William Howe Mezzotint

Rebel militia Brigadier William Heath continued distant skirmishing to inflict maximum casualties with least risk. His effective leadership resulted in huge losses for the British. British General Sir Hugh Percy lost control of his men and many redcoats committed atrocities. The militia were 4,000 strong by the time the British reached Cambridge. Militia Col. Pickering who could have obstructed the redcoats return to Charlestown did not. He later said the reason was to avoid war by preventing total defeat of the redcoats.

British General Gage sent more reinforcements to Charlestown. Rebel militia Brigadier-General Heath decided at this point to withdraw. The British who set out with 700 men lost 273, and the militia rebels only 95. The next morning General Gage awoke to find 15,000 rebel militia in Boston. The Revolution had begun. The English replaced the disgraced General Gage with a new General, General William Howe.

Just one little coin in your hand can relive so much history with its images! The minuteman, working in the field, taking off his jacket to cool down, but still keeping his musket nearby. The old belfry at Lexington, from which the alarm rang out on the morning of April 19th, 1775, to warn local residents that the redcoats were coming. There are the images of history that inspire numismatists!



\$20 Brown Back National Bank Note of Windham National Bank, Willimantic, CT Fr 496 Vignette left shown on page 129.



The original bank in Windham Center, now a village library in my village.

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- By Richard Purcell aka Charles Corbett (ca 1736-ca 1766) - From the Anne S.K. Brown Military History Collection at Brown UniversityURL at time of upload:
<http://dl.lib.brown.edu/repository2/repopman.php?verb=render&id=1153546004248&view=showmods>, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6373935>
- By John Singleton Copley - Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection, CC0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=10253527>



US COMMEMORATIVE \$ 1/2, LONG ISLAND TERCENTENNIAL 1936 DUTCH & INDIAN / SHIP. 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS UNC

453

14 Historical Coins – CC 34

Long Island Tercentenary 1936.

Background.

The 1936 Long Island Tercentennial (LIT) celebrated the first white settlement on Long Island by the Dutch in 1636.

The Coin.

The obverse shows right facing conjugate heads of an idealized Dutch settler in the foreground, and an idealized Algonquin Native American behind. This symbolized the Dutch settlement of Breuckelin, Jamaica Bay, and the thirteen Native American tribes on Long Island when Hudson explored the area in 1609. The name Breuckelin was taken from a town in Utrecht province in Holland, possibly some of the settlers' home town, and was later anglicized to Brooklyn. In the right lower field is an H over W with periods each side, a monogram for the sculptor Howard Kenneth Weinman. Howard (1901-1976) was the only son of the famous Adolph Weinman (1870-1952), who sculpted the "Mercury" dime and Liberty Walking half dollar. The legend says LIBERTY above and E PLURIBUS UNUM below.

The reverse shows a Dutch three-masted ship in full sail to the right suggesting it is sailing east from New Amsterdam, or was it sailing west from Europe? This is not documented to represent any specific ship, though is very similar to Half Moon, Hudson's exploratory ship in 1609. The ship is on a stylized sea with •IN GOD WE TRUST• inscribed in incuse and forming an exergual line. In the exergue is •1936• | LONG• ISLAND | •TERCENTANARY•. The legend above reads UNITED•STATES• OF•AMERICA• HALF•DOLLAR, using thick commas rather than periods between each word.

Introducing the coin.

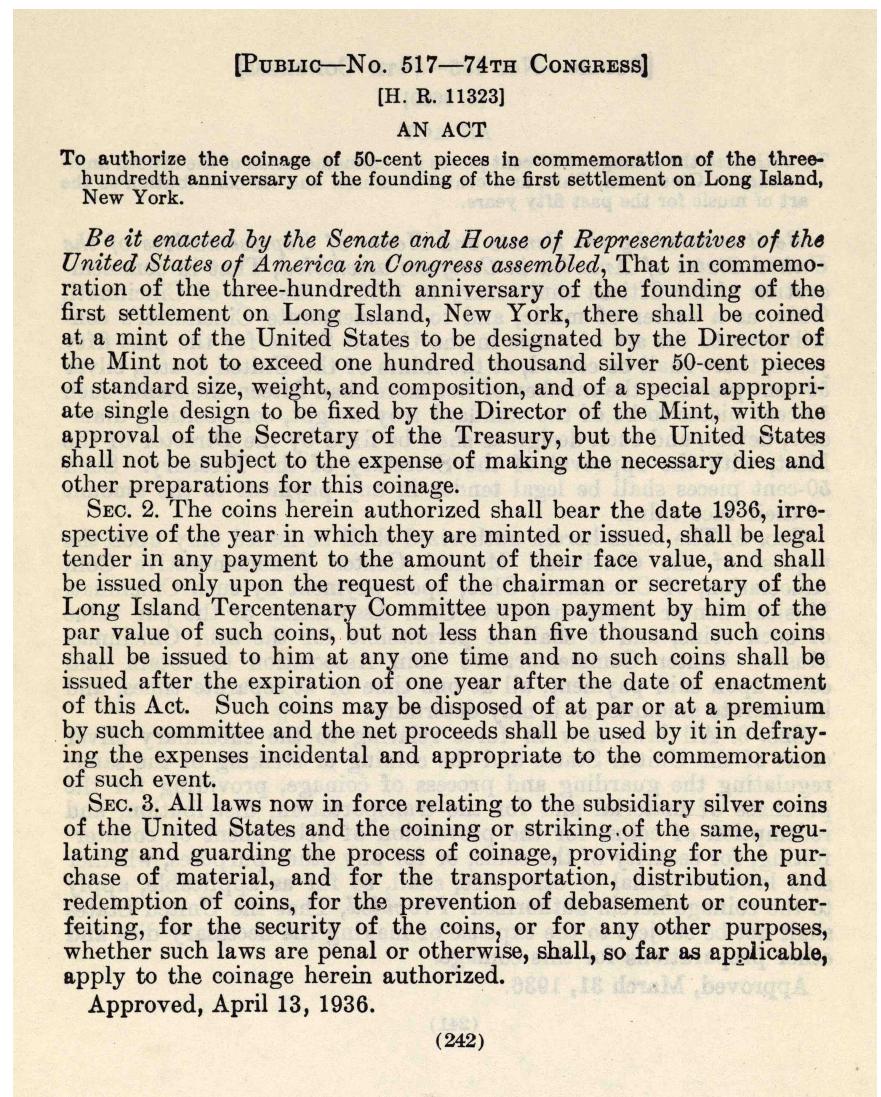
On April 2nd, 1936 the LIT Committee asked Howard Kenneth Weinman to do some sketches for a design. Howard taught at Grand Central Art School and was employed by Grumman Aircraft Engine Corporation in Long Island from 1952 to 1972.

Later that April Congress authorized 100,000 coins with the condition that they could only be minted for a one-year period starting April 13th, 1936. This was to prevent further abuses of coins being minted for years after the initial law authorizing the coins. This happened with the Oregon Trail commemorative half dollar which continued from 1926 to 1939, the Boone bicentennial commemorative half dollar which continued from 1934 to 1938, and the Arkansas Centennial commemorative half dollar which continued from 1935 to 1939.

As the LIT celebrations took place in May 1936, clearly the coins were not ready in time. During May 1936 Howard Weinman completed his models, and shipped them to the Commission on Fine Arts for inspection. On June 24th, 1936 the Commission of Fine Arts approved the models with minor modifications.

The models were then shipped to the Medallic Art Company to make a die using their Janvier reducing lathe. The company then shipped the dies to the Mint.

In August 1936 the Philadelphia Mint struck 100,000 coins and shipped them to Brooklyn National City Bank by armored truck, approximately three months late after the celebrations!



Once at the Brooklyn bank the coins were allotted in specific amounts to the four counties for sale to the public at \$1 (see next page). By the expiry date of April 13th, 1937, 18,227 unsold coins were returned to the Philadelphia Mint for remelting. Total distribution was 81,826 coins which included 53 for assay.



John J. Ford, the coin dealer and raconteur, describes in Bower's 1991 Commemorative Coins book how a bank teller in Williamsburg Savings Bank in Brooklyn discovered two bags of LIT commemorative half dollars i.e. containing 2,000 coins. Having acquired the bags presumably for face value of \$1,000 he called Ford in 1953 or 1954, who immediately offered him \$2,000 cash over the phone, then put them up for sale at \$4 each. Ford says the young man was probably making \$50 a week as a bank teller at the time, and made a \$1,000 profit. But Ford, the raconteur, made a \$6,000 profit!

A small diversion about Ford! Ford was very clever but a very crooked dealer. Eric P. Newman, possibly the most iconic American numismatic scholar of the twentieth century, fell out with Ford over his crooked ways, which is nicely described in the book *Truth Seeker: the life of Eric P. Newman*. Ford had an accomplice Paul Franklin, who made seven fake copies of a proof US Assay Office \$20 pieces, which Ford "authenticated" and sold. Walter Breen, another famous and infamous numismatic scholar (incarcerated for pedophilia) was so afraid of Ford that he would go along with what Ford wanted. Later, western assay bars and other fakes appeared that were also completely made up by Franklin, "authenticated" by Ford and sold through Stacks, a prominent numismatic dealer.

Newman tried in vain to neutralize Ford's clandestine fakes. Josiah K. Lilly, a wealthy collector, donated an extensive collection of coins and bars to the Smithsonian for a tax break realizing they could be forgeries. As described in *Truth Seeker: The Life of Eric P. Newman*:

"The Smithsonian refused to allow access to those fakes until Smithsonian secretary Ripley ordered the curator to cooperate. Eric Newman would be joined by Theodore V. Buttrey, a numismatist and classics professor, and others to expose the fraudulent items."

ANS curator John Kleeberg wrote in 2004: *All the evidence suggests that these bars were not made in the West in the nineteenth century. All the evidence points to manufacture in Massapequa Park, Long Island and in Arizona in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s by Gerow Paul Franklin (1919-2000). This is also true of the 'Franklin Hoard' of USAOG items; the Mexican gold bars; the Saudi Arabian 4 dinar gold discs; the gold coins of Blake, Bowie, Diana, Hall, and the Conway \$5*

without denomination; and the Republic of Texas, F.D. Kohler, and Union Mine counterstamps".

History of the Dutch settling America

This is a complicated tale, but an interesting one that includes four coins – the Hudson Sesquicentennial, the Albany Charter, the Long Island Tercentenary, and the Huguenot Walloon commemorative half dollars.

The VOC (Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie), or Dutch East India Company, was founded 1602 in Holland. It lasted till 1800, and was involved in the spice trade. They had over 2,000 ships, and had their own army and their own coins.



VOC Utrecht 3 Gulden 1786 silver 41 mm and 31.13 grams #2424



1909 reproduction of Half Moon, Hudson's ship

Initially the VOC wanted to explore North America for a northwest passage to the East Indies. And in 1609 they hired Henry Hudson, the British explorer, to find it. His remit was to sail northeast but having done that already he sailed west against orders (see chapter 3 on the Hudson sesquicentennial). Hudson explored Delaware Bay then the Hudson River on the Ship "Half Moon", meeting the Mahicans (a different tribe from the Mohegans) in present day Albany. The Mahicans traded furs for trade goods.



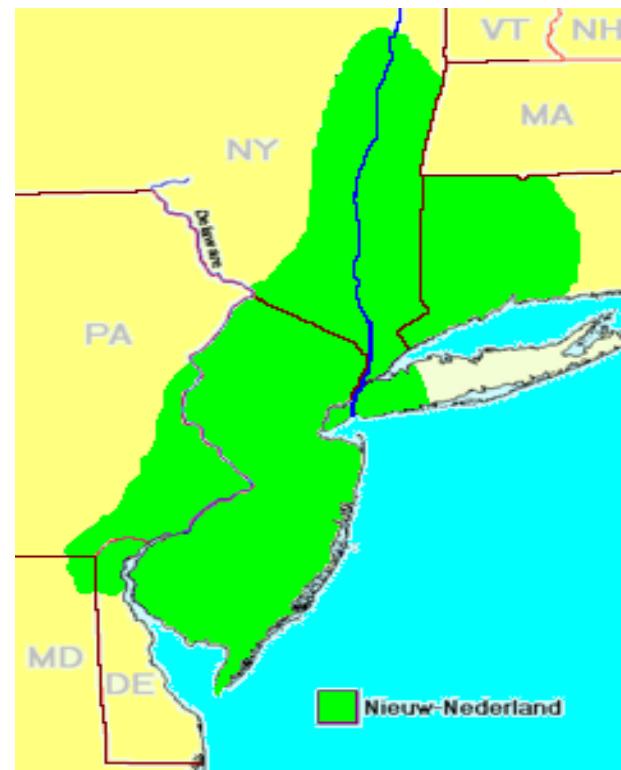
Henry Hudson entering New York Bay 1609 with Indian family watching by Edward Moran

The next year in 1610, the Dutch fur traders returned. Beaver fur was made into felt for waterproof hats. Initially the Dutch came only in the summer. The next year Hudson encountered Wappinger Native Americans from the Hudson River area who had been raided by other Europeans for slaves. Consequently, they were aggressive.

In 1613, thirteen Dutch merchants formed the United Netherlands Company. They were given a four-year charter to trade for fur on the Hudson and to establish trading posts in Manhattan and Albany. The next year the Dutch brokered a truce with the warring Mahicans and Mohawks. They then started building Fort Nassau on Castle island (see chapter 3 on the Albany Charter) and New Amsterdam on Manhattan Island.

In 1617, the Dutch moved Fort Nassau to higher ground on Castle Island (see picture at right) because it flooded every spring. In 1621, after the charter of the United Netherlands Company had expired, a group of merchants formed the Dutch West India Company (Westindische Compagnie or WIC). The Republic of the Seven United Netherlands granted them a trade monopoly for the New Netherlands including the Caribbean, South America and West Africa. The VOC had a monopoly for the East Indies, and WIC felt the northwest passage could break that monopoly. The Republic of the Seven United Netherlands was still fighting Spain for its independence, a struggle that continued from its beginning in 1568 for 80 years until the Treaty of Westphalia secured Dutch independence in 1648. The WIC lasted until it was dissolved in 1674 (it would later be revived in 1675 primarily to engage in the West African slave trade).

In 1623, the Dutch founded the Province of New Netherland was founded extending from the Delaware River to the Connecticut River.



The Province of new Netherland 1623

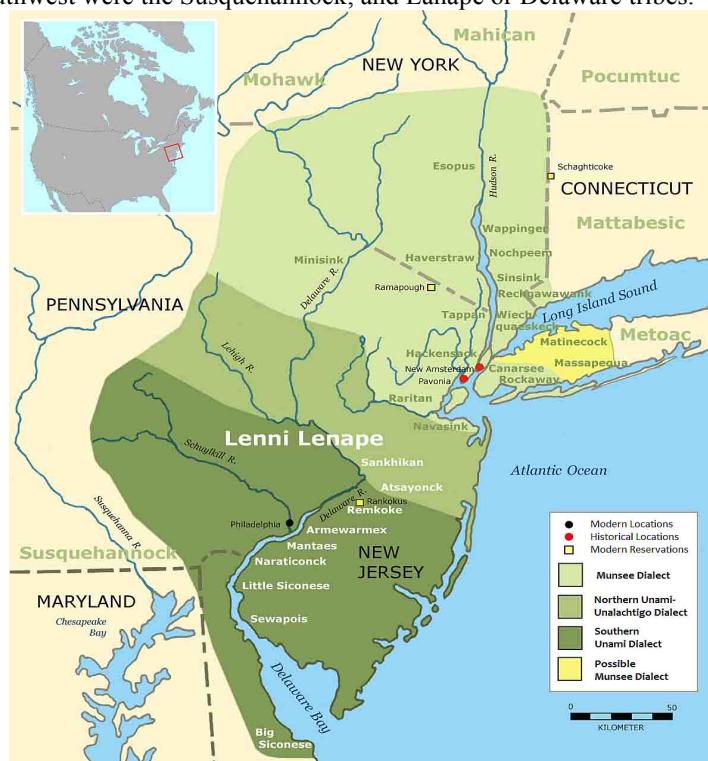


Map of Location of Fort Orange, built in 1624

In 1624, a new fort, Fort Orange, was built on the side of the river rather than on Castle island (see above) in Albany area. The first Director General, Cornelis Jacobszoon, arrived on the ship "Nieuw Nederland" (see earlier on in this chapter on the Huguenot-Walloon commemorative half dollar) with 30 mainly Walloon families. Arriving on Governor's island, they later moved to New Amsterdam (Manhattan) which was named capital of New Netherland.



In the north, between 1624 and 1628, the Mahican tribe fought the Mohawks to become the preferred traders with the Dutch. The Dutch had to appease the Mahicans to do business with them. The Mohawks were part of the Iroquois Confederacy, a Native American union of five (later six) tribes important in the future struggle between the British and French to dominate North America. In the southwest were the Susquehannock, and Lenni Lenape or Delaware tribes.



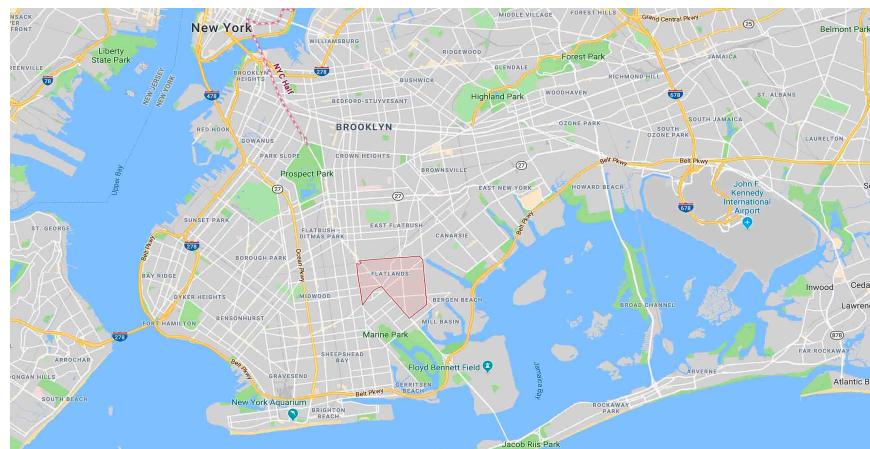
Native American tribes around New York in 1600s

In 1626, Peter Minuit bought Manhattan from the Lenape tribe for 60 guilders (24 Lion dollars' worth) of trade goods. A Lion dollar was a common Dutch silver trade coin (see page 124). Lenape Chief Senseys was very happy with this arrangement because the land was controlled by another tribe! However, there are multiple different accounts of what actually happened. But it was traditional then to exchange gifts for safe passage through Native American lands or to temporarily occupy them. European concepts about ownership were different from Native American concepts. Native Americans did not own land or sell it. The word Manhattan comes from manna-hata in the Weckquaesgeeks language which meant hilly island. Fort New Amsterdam was constructed on the southern tip of Manhattan and Fort Nassau was completed in present day New Jersey.

In 1628, WIC Admiral Piet Heyn captured the Spanish Treasure Fleet in the Battle of Matanzas Bay, Cuba. Without shedding any blood, he seized 11½ million guilders of silver and gold. This money kept the WIC army and navy going for eight months. The population of New Amsterdam at this time was 270. Even at this early date, some Europeans had likely settled on Long Island.

In 1629, the Dutch bought a tract of land on Delaware Bay from the Unalachtigo tribe, and a couple of years later bought land on Cape May in New Jersey. But a Dutch colonist killed a native on Staten Island during an argument and the natives in return killed 32 colonists. That same year, a wealthy Dutchman, Killiaen van Rensselaer, as a business venture bought land around Fort Orange from the Mahicans and started a farming community called Rensselaerswijck. He never actually came to North America, but his name lives on. A village in the large tract of land became Beverwijck, which became Albany under the British in 1664 (the Duke of York's full title was Duke of York and Albany). The Duke of York was Charles II's brother who became King James II in 1685.

The British, also anxious for New World territories, first invaded Dutch territory in 1633 competing with the Dutch Fort Huys de Goede Hoop, built in present day Hartford.



Location of Flatlands (outlined) off Jamaica Bay on Google map. Gowanus Bay is between Red Hook and Sunset Park on the left.

1636 is given as the date Long island was settled at Brooklyn by the Dutch from WIC, though several families probably settled western Long Island earlier than this. The 1636 settlement was negotiated with Native Americans in present day Kings County. The actual settlements were at Amesfort or Flatlands and at Gowanus Bay (see map). The eastern end of Long island was first settled by English Puritans from New Haven in 1640. I have not found records of whether Dutch settlers came from Europe in the ship shown on the reverse, or whether they came from New Amsterdam, which would explain the ship sailing East.

In 1638, Peter Minuit, ex Director General of New Netherlands since 1632, was hired by the Swedish South Company to colonize Dutch territory in Delaware. They built Fort Christina in present day Wilmington. Seventeen years later Peter Stuyvesant took the settlement with his large armada.

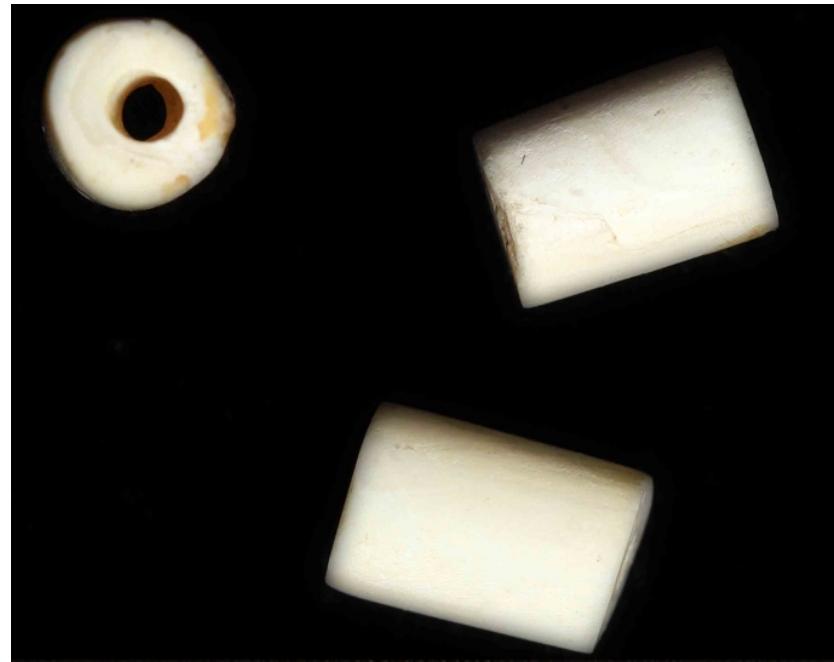


Governor Kieft

When the new Governor/Director General Willem Kieft came to power in 1639, his strategy was different from others. He wanted to intimidate natives not negotiate with them. The next year WIC gave up its trade monopoly enabling other businessmen to invest in New Netherland.

One settler, De Vries, bought land on Staten Island from the Raritan tribe. However, the Raritans felt it gave De Vries permission only to occupy the land, but that they could continue to hunt on the land including De Vries pigs! In 1642, a few pigs disappeared, and Gov. Kieft, although he knew the culprit was Dutch not Raritan, sent a party to fight the Raritans. The Raritans retaliated by burning De Vries plantation and killing his four field hands. Gov. Kieft upped the ante and wanted the Raritans exterminated, but virtually no one complied. This was part of Kieft's so-called Pig War. Other similar wars were the Beaver Wars, the Whiskey Wars, and the Peach Tree War which started after a native picked a peach!

Fast forward two years. The belligerent Kieft decided to exterminate the Wappinger tribe up the Hudson River as an example to other tribes. But when other tribes joined the Wappingers, Kieft had to pay the English 25,000 guilders for 150 men to help fight. They killed 1,600 Wappingers and their allies. The Wappingers and Metoacs then became subjects of the Mohawks and Mahicans (who had stayed neutral throughout all this). They had to give them annual wampum tributes. The Mohawk and Mahican then controlled the wampum trade at the time. Wampum was used as trade money between Dutch and natives in the 1600s.



Wampum, from Dann Burial Site ~1687, 4.2-4.5mm x 6-7mm #1601

The Dutch heard of this and dismissed Kieft, replacing him with Peter Stuyvesant in 1647. Under Stuyvesant's leadership the population increased from 2,000 in 1647 (of which 1,500 were in New Amsterdam) to 9,000 in 1664 (of which 2,500 were in New Amsterdam and 1,000 in Fort Orange) – however, the numbers vary in different accounts. Many Walloons and Huguenots arrived as religious refugees despite the constant wars with local Native Americans (see earlier in this chapter on the Huguenot-Walloon commemorative half dollar). English, German States and Scandinavian people also settled there because of religious freedom.



New Amsterdam in 1660 not wall to east, from which Wall Street was derived.



The Fall of New Amsterdam by JLG Ferris. Settlers persuade Stuyvesant not to fire.

But all of this changed in 1664. The overwhelming English fleet, under the Duke of York (English King Charles II's brother), took New Amsterdam and renamed it New York. New Netherland was renamed the Province of New York. When the British arrived Peter Stuyvesant wanted to fight the British but settlers persuaded him not to (see painting on this page).

The seizure of New Netherland by England led to the second Anglo-Dutch war of 1665-1667 ending with the Treaty of Breda in which the English kept Manhattan and New Netherland, and the Dutch were given Dutch Guyana, and the Island of Run. Run was the only place in the world at the time that grew nutmeg (and mace), a crop worth literally its weight in gold. The Dutch also controlled at various times the Dutch Antilles in the Caribbean, northeast Brazil, and Dutch Guyana (now Suriname).

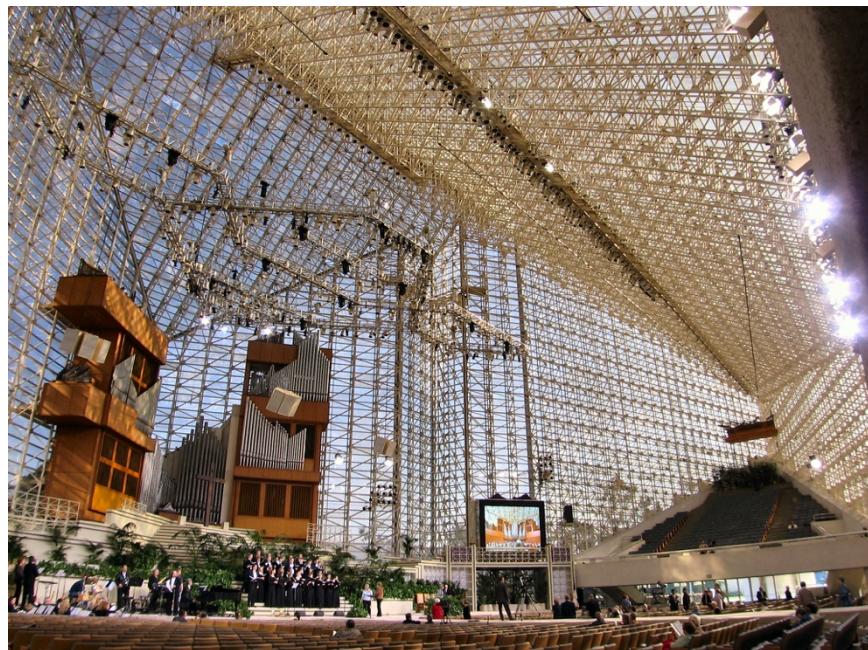
Charles I was English King from 1625 to 1649. His struggle with parliament resulted in the English Civil War from 1642 until 1649 ending with his own execution that year. The Puritan Cromwell then ruled England as Lord Protector until he died in 1658. In 1660 England invited back Charles II (the son and heir of Charles I who had fled to France in 1649) to rule. He agreed to support the Church of England, and had no children with his wife, just many illegitimate children. His brother, the Duke of York and a Catholic, became King James II when Charles II died in 1685.

James II's second wife, Mary of Modena, was a devout Catholic, and when they had a child (who would be brought up Catholic) this was too much for the Protestant English to stomach. So they asked William, Prince of Orange, and his wife Mary (a Protestant daughter of James II) to reign jointly to replace him in 1688. The English call this "the Glorious Revolution". James II fled to Catholic France. No prizes for guessing where William the Prince of Orange was from! Yes! Holland! So, after the titanic struggle of three Anglo-Dutch wars to control trade and colonies from 1652 to 1674, a Dutchman now ruled England!

It is difficult to imagine living in those times in a place like Fort Orange with the constant threat of Native American attacks and having to plan overwintering supplies especially in upstate New York. But the attraction for employees at Fort Orange was money. There was also plenty of graft up there. Traded furs were like gold. This all added to the attraction. Descendants of Dutch immigrants in Federal America include Van Buren, and the Roosevelts.

Thinking about present Dutch influence in America, something I had never really thought about was the Dutch Reformed Church. In Holland it was the largest Christian denomination from the reformation until around the 1930s. In America one of its descendants was the Reformed Church in America. An important minister in New York City, was Norman Vincent Peale. He wrote *The Power of Positive Thinking* in 1952, an enormously influential self-help book which sold over 5 million copies. Self-help books started in the early 1900s. Perhaps the most well-known was *How to Win Friends and Influence People* by Dale Carnegie, published in 1936 which sold over 30 million copies.

Norman Vincent Peale also performed the marriage ceremony for Donald Trump and his first wife Ivana in his church. Peale was also the mentor of Robert Schuller who founded a Reformed Church in America in Garden Grove, Los Angeles. Schuller started a walk-in, drive-in church in 1958. In 1980 he built Crystal Cathedral, an all glass building, designed by Philip Johnson. Schuller had a TV series called the “Hour of Power”, which was the most widely watched hour-long church service in the world. 1,500 services were recorded. But in 2010 Crystal Cathedral Ministries filed for bankruptcy, and in 2012 sold the building and its adjacent campus to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange.



Crystal Cathedral interior

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Exterior of Crystal Cathedral.

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<http://cdn.loc.gov/master/pnp/cph/3c00000/3c07000/3c07800/3c07822u.tif> Sir Henry Hudson entering New York Bay, September 11, 1609, with Indian family watching on shore in foreground

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Amsterdam#/media/File:CastelloPlanOriginal.jpg

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Amsterdam#/media/File:Blaeu_Nova_Belgica_et_Anglia_Nova_\(Detail_Hudson_Area\).png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Amsterdam#/media/File:Blaeu_Nova_Belgica_et_Anglia_Nova_(Detail_Hudson_Area).png)

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crystal_Cathedral#/media/File:Crys-ext.jpg



MONROE DOCTRINE CENTENNIAL 1923 S \$1/2 12.5 GRAMS, 30.6MM AU 55

511

14 Historical Coins – CC 11
Monroe Doctrine Centennial 1923.
(This could also be labelled an Exposition coin)
American Historical Review and Motion Picture
Exposition” 1923 Los Angeles

Background

Hollywood was having bad problems in the early 1920s. They had a lot of bad press with drug addiction and murders. And they were too sexually explicit. So, they needed some PR. Well - what better than to have their own show – a big fair? A commemorative coin would help too, but what could they commemorate in 1923? They tried like crazy to make the Boston Tea Party of 1773 relevant, but somehow they just could not link it to Los Angeles. Some bright spark came up with the Monroe Doctrine announced in 1823. Bingo! So they got their coin and called the 1923 World's Fair “The First American Historical Review and Motion Picture Historical Exposition”. What an absurd mouthful!!

The Coin.

The obverse shows conjoined busts facing left. In the background is President James Monroe, and in the foreground John Quincy Adams, who as Secretary of State was the man behind the idea of the Monroe Doctrine. Beneath the busts are the legends MONROE, then two chain-links, then ADAMS. The two chain links signified their accord on the doctrine. Above is the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. In the left field is IN GOD WE TRUST, and in the right field is 1923 with an S beneath for the San Francisco Mint.

The reverse design is bizarre. It shows North and South America disguised as two women! Apart from not quite making it artistically, the artist, Chester Beach, plagiarized it from another artist, Raphael Beck from Buffalo, NY. (Beck made the design for the 1901 Pan-American Exposition Seal). The legend on the coin reverse reads MONROE DOCTRINE CENTENNIAL above and LOS ANGELES below. In the left field are the dates 1823 and 1923. In the right field is Chester Beach's CB monogram.

Ms. North America holds a branch of uncertain significance in her left hand, and in her right hand she is holding something, though the sculpture is in such low relief that I cannot make out what the something is. It is said to be an olive branch. Ms. South America holds a cornucopia. Both ladies appear to be contortionists. Humorously, Walter Breen in the Swiatek/Breen 1981 commemorative book (see references), comments: “the position must have been a considerable strain to the model, if there was any”!

Chester Beach either wanted to show off that he knew the ocean currents (unlikely) or thought that they would be an artistic contribution. Breen cleverly lists a dozen of the currents. Frankly I feel these do little for the artistry of the reverse. But Breen suspected that the currents “*represented the unending flow of imports and exports between the two continents unimpeded by foreign powers*”. I wonder whether that is perhaps reading too much into it.

Introducing the Coin.

No one knows who introduced the idea of the commemorative. But in 1922 Rep. Lineberger (CA) introduced a bill for the coin saying that the Monroe Doctrine prevented Russia from annexing California from Mexico. Ah! At last we had a connection albeit a concocted connection! Sen. Greene of Vermont commented: “(is) the US government going to go on from year to year submitting its coinage to this – well – harlotry”! Anyway, Congress authorized 300,000 coins in January 1923, to be issued to the Los Angeles Clearing House (a group of local banks).

Frank B. Davison, a Texas politician and businessman, was hired by Hollywood to be the director general for the fair. He came up with the original coin designs, which he presented to the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA). CFA Chairman Charles Moore contacted James Earle Fraser (the famous sculptor who designed the buffalo nickel). Fraser in turn contacted the sculptor Chester Beach, who agreed to make the models. Moore told the Fair Director-General Davison all of this. Moore then approved Beach's change (anthropomorphizing the Americas). The CFA then approved Beach's models March 8th, 1923. The whole process flowed very smoothly especially for such artistic nonsense!



Chester Beach

Chester Beach was from San Francisco, but had his studio in New York City from 1905 to 1951. He sculpted three groups for the 1915 Panama Pacific Exposition, and dozens of life sized sculptures during his life. He sculpted three commemorative half dollars: this 1923 Monroe Doctrine 1923, the 1925 Lexington-Concord and the 1928 Hawaii. The first was abominable; the second was mechanical; the third was inspired.

As previously alluded to, the reverse of the Monroe commemorative half dollar was actually plagiarized from Ralph Beck's medal in 1899 for the seal of the 1901 Pan American Exposition at Buffalo. James Earle Fraser had actually suggested the motif to Beach in 1923.



Raphael Beck's design for 1901 Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo.

Beck protested the plagiarism, but Fraser said he had never seen Beck's design. Beach actually had also used Beck's anthropomorphic Americas design before in 1901. Beck had even copyrighted the design in 1899. But there seemed to be a more laissez-faire attitude towards plagiarism back then. The Mint simply ignored the issue. Luckily for Beach and Fraser, Beck never sued. Interestingly, even in modern times there has been only mild reaction to the plagiarizing of Melania Trump and Joseph Biden.

Cornelius Vermeule in his book *Numismatic Art in America* said: "Adams with his staring eye, is scarcely a portrait, and Monroe would not be recognized even by an expert.....the females....(are) clever....but an aesthetic monstrosity".

In May and June, the San Francisco Mint struck 274,077 coins and sent them to the LA Clearing House who paid for them at face value plus the cost of producing the dies. (Seventy-seven coins out of the total were sent to Philadelphia for assay.) Around 10% of the coins sold for \$1, mostly by banks direct or mail, and many less at the exposition. Around 90% remained unsold, so the banks simply released them into circulation at face value. They were not returned for re-melting. Many disappointed people who had bought their mementos for \$1, seeing so many in circulation, decided they might as well spend theirs as well. Thus today the vast majority of coins are in circulated condition just like the one pictured.

The Monroe Doctrine

Secretary of State John Quincy Adams felt that the Holy Alliance* might try to restore several South American countries to Spain. (Such a noble thought, but while they were about it, they would not be above taking a few countries for themselves!). The Holy Alliance was interested in colonizing, and in stamping out democracy. Russia owned Alaska at the time and controlled the northwest Pacific coastal sea routes, which impinged on Oregon Country, under America's sphere of influence.

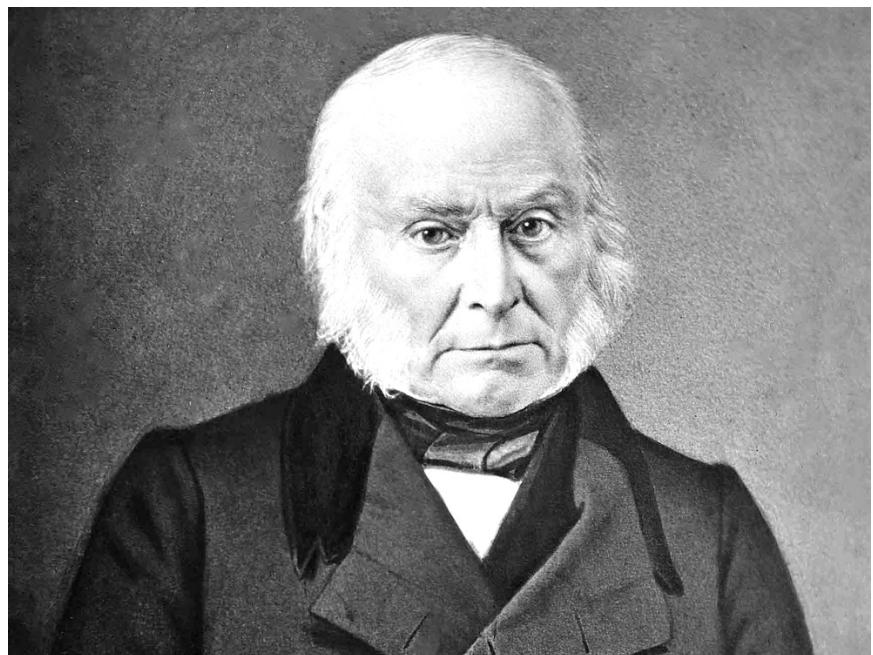


President James Monroe, who announced the Monroe Doctrine in 1823.

*The monarchist powers of Russia, Austria, France and Prussia created The Holy Alliance, after the defeat of Napoleon. Tsar Alexander I of Russia started the idea. They signed the alliance in Paris in 1815. The intention was to restrain liberalism and secularism in Europe in the wake of the devastating French Revolutionary Wars.

British Foreign Minister George Canning proposed to the US Minister to Great Britain, Richard Rush, that the US and Great Britain make a joint statement against the Holy Alliance retaking Spanish South American countries. Great Britain already enjoyed excellent trade with those South American countries. John Quincy Adams (later to be 6th President of the United States) told James Monroe (5th President of the United States at the time) that the statement should be made independently by the United States to show US assertiveness. Monroe duly stated it in his December State of the Nation speech before Congress in 1823. He said:

1. The United States would not interfere in European affairs.
2. The United States would not interfere with existing colonies in the Americas.
3. The Americas were closed to future colonization.
4. Any attempt by Europeans to oppress or control any country in the Americas would be viewed as a hostile act to the United States.



John Quincy Adams (Secretary of State to James Monroe) Daguerreotype.

Unfortunately, the doctrine had no teeth. The US at the time did not even have a significant military or navy. But the United States stood its ground against Great Britain in Oregon Country, and settled on the 49th parallel boundary between Canada and America in 1846.

During the American Civil War (1861-1865) France invaded Mexico. The US was too distracted at the time to fight the French. But after the Civil War in 1865 the United States massed troops on the Rio Grande to help Mexico take back its country from the French. The French army duly left Mexico in 1866, leaving its high-minded Emperor Maximilian stranded. In 1867 Mexico executed Maximilian.

In 1898, the United States helped Cuba gain independence from Spain in the Spanish-American War. In 1904 Teddy Roosevelt added the "Roosevelt Corollary" to the Monroe Doctrine saying, "in cases of flagrant and chronic wrong doing by Latin American countries, the US could intervene in that country's internal affairs".

The Hollywood background – why did Hollywood even need the Exposition!

The movie industry started with Thomas Edison in New Jersey. His studio made around 1,200 movies from 1894 until they closed in 1918. Of those only 54 were feature-length. But in 1911 the first movie studio was built in Hollywood, 15 others followed in the same year. The reasons for this were many, but the initial one accelerating the move was that Edison had formed the "Motion Picture Patents Company" to monopolize film making in 1908. Edison's lawyers and marshals saw to it that Edison's patents were enforced.

But if you moved 3,000 miles away to LA in 1908, marshals did not want to travel that distance. And enforcing court action in LA was more difficult. So, anyone who wanted to make movies either had to pay Edison, or move to LA.

There were other advantages too: the weather in LA was warm and sunny year-round so you could shoot year-round. Bright light was needed to expose film in those days; cloudy days halted production in New Jersey. LA at the time had mountains, desert, sea, beaches, factory, jungles, farms etc. - all the scenery needed within easy travel distance. Wages were half those of the East coast because LA had no unions. By 1923 Hollywood employed around 15,000 people.



Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle who raped and killed Actress Virginia Rappe.



Actress Virginia Rappe who was raped and killed by Fatty Arbuckle.

Hollywood sponsored the coin and the exposition to try to mend their reputation after bad public relations problems in the early 1920s. So what follows is a brief digression about what those Hollywood PR problems really were.

In 1921, Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle (see picture on previous page), a famous movie star, was accused of raping an actress Virginia Rappe in an orgy at the St. Francis Hotel, in San Francisco, and subsequently killing her by rupturing her bladder. He weighed 300 lbs. It was rumored he used a coke bottle. After three trials he was acquitted, but the negative publicity ended his career. And it troubled moviegoers.

EXONERATED OF MANSLAUGHTER

Roscoe Arbuckle and Virginia Rappe

It took a mixed jury less than one minute to arrive at a verdict of not guilty, and five more minutes to reduce it to paper, in the third trial of Roscoe Arbuckle, charged with the death of Miss Virginia Rappe.

Newspaper cutting of Arbuckle's third trial.

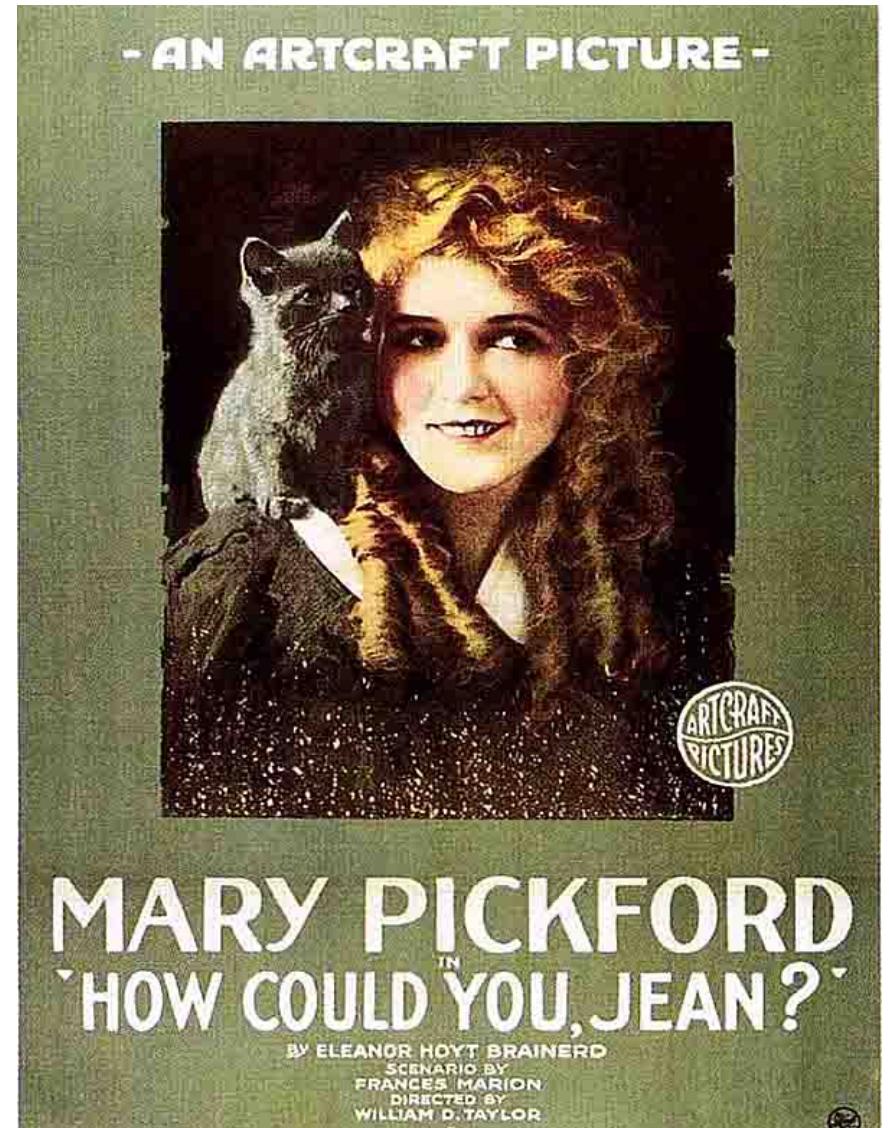


William Desmond Taylor Movie Director directing Top of New York 1921.



Actress Mabel Normand.

In 1922, a famous Hollywood director employed by Paramount Studios, William Desmond Taylor, was shot dead in his home at the age of 49. This murder mystery remains unsolved today and has been the subject of a number of books. The evening before his murder a silent film comedienne, Mabel Normand, had visited him. His death was discovered the next morning by Taylor's houseboy. He called Paramount Studios who immediately came over and removed all of Taylor's letters, bootleg liquor (prohibition was in place from 1920 to 1933), and cleaned up the blood and house. By the time the LA police arrived the crime scene was badly compromised.



Mary Pickford Movie Directed by William Taylor.

Movie director Desmond Taylor had a checkered past. In New York City in 1904, he had told his wife and daughter he was going out to lunch. He deserted them and never returned, seeking a new life.

Taylor had tried to stop famous actress, Mabel Normand's \$2,000 a month (\$30,000 a month in today's dollars) cocaine and opium habit. He also headed a local anti-drug commission. A drug dealer likely killed Taylor, but books list numerous other suspects.

Hollywood had problems: drug addiction among the stars was widely reported. Apart from Normand, screen heart-throb Mary Pickford's brother Jack was an addict, and Jack's wife, Olive Thomas, an actress, was killed by poison in 1920 in France. In 1923 the famous actor Wallace Reid died from a drug overdose.

Society was only just climbing out of the Victorian age, and after a disastrous World War I prohibition was in progress. Hollywood showed sex on screen quite explicitly. Women's clubs and religious groups objected. Many regional censorship boards censored Hollywood films and many theaters refused to screen them. By 1922 fewer people were watching movies.



Will Hays, ex-Postmaster General, who started the Hays Code.

So Hollywood decided to spruce up their image. They hired Will Hays who had been US Postmaster-General, to do some damage control. Hays publicized a code called the Motion Picture Production Code (also known as the Hays Code), which rated how sexually explicit a movie was and what was unacceptable to be screened i.e. setting up as an independent censor. Of course the movies were still silent at that time, but words were projected on the screen and they could also be censored.

The second thing major studios did was to join to form the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America (MPPDA), whose secretary, Walter J. Reynolds, later also ran the Motion Picture exposition. But major studios like Fox and Vitagraph refused to contribute to the expo and instead flattered Will Hays not Walter Reynolds. MPPDA was convinced that any investment in the expo would be successful, so they did not even think about the possibility of business failure, and could not understand why some studios would not invest. They concentrated not on popular appeal to visitors but to mending Hollywood's reputation. Indeed, Reynolds went bankrupt and resigned before the expo closed. An outside company took over the expo's \$200,000 debt (\$3 million in today's dollars).

The main conclusion from all of this was that Hollywood did not really have its act together with a unified front, and had not really thought the whole thing through professionally. They were too fragmented.

The Exposition itself.

The 1923 World's Fair was held from July 2nd to August 5th 1923 in Exposition Park, east of the new LA Coliseum. Admission to the fair was 50 cents. Or you could buy a Monroe commemorative half dollar for one dollar and get free admission. Director General Davison predicted one million visitors, but only 300,000 came. The fair was a financial flop.

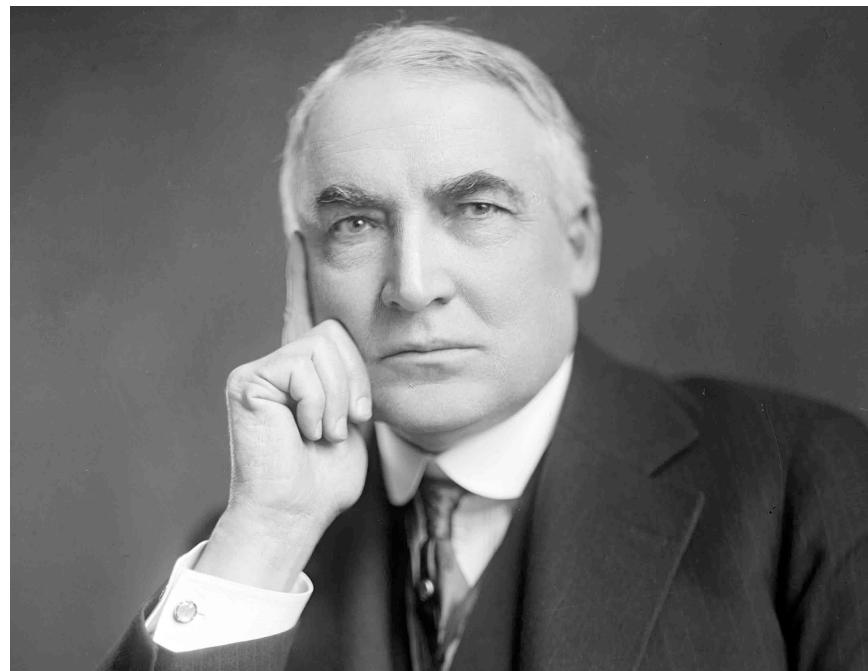


Model of 1923 World's Fair in Los Angeles.

There was a nightly program of ballets, tableaux (motionless figures showing scenes from history – very popular in the 1800s, but dated at the time), firework shows, and local vendors. A Hollywood movie “Montezuma and the fall of the Aztecs” was shown every evening for free.

At a section called “The Location”, 25 film studios showed the whole process of making movies. Hollywood was trying to rescue its reputation by civic pageantry, educational displays and history. But visitors were not interested. The organizers had also shunned “petty amusements”. After the first disappointing week they belatedly realized their failing strategy and quickly erected a midway full of rides, games and stunts. The public was mainly interested in seeing film stars and being entertained. With insolvency round the corner, Davison had organized a visit from President Harding, hoping to bump attendance right at the end of the show.

President Warren Harding probably knew he was going to die. After a bad dose of flu in January 1923 he tired very quickly. He decided to sell his newspaper and he reworked his will. He had congestive heart failure which had started in 1918 although he did not know it. Unfortunately, Harding’s favorite doctor was a homeopath who used laxatives, and arsenic to treat his congestive heart failure and was not scientifically trained. However, in those days there was no really effective treatment for heart failure anyway apart from digitalis, which slowed the heart rate if it was going too fast from atrial fibrillation. On July 27th, Harding became ill, subsequently developing pneumonia. On August 2nd, he seemed better but, while his wife was reading to him, he dropped dead likely from ventricular fibrillation, a common cause of death in people with congestive heart failure.



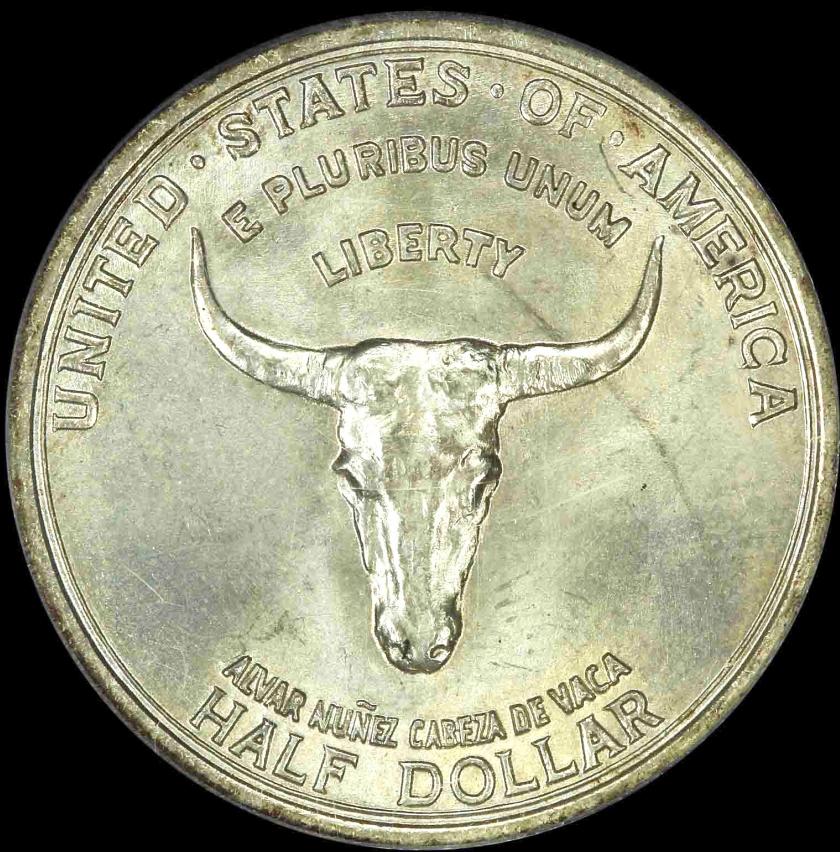
President Warren Harding who never did make it to the show.

Harding was only 57 years old. As he was dead, his visit to the show in early August never materialized. Exposition receipts dwindled and the fair was a financial disaster. It probably did little to help Hollywood’s image.

Today the exposition is largely forgotten, hardly even considered a World Fair. And the original intent to make it an annual event never materialized. But from its death arose the phoenix from the ashes – the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, whose awards are watched today by millions across the world every year.

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QUADRIGENTENNIAL OF CABEZA DE VACA OLD SPANISH TRAIL 1935 COMMEM \$1/2 COW HEAD/TRAIL; 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS PCGS MS 65

1428

14 Historical Coins – CC 29

Old Spanish Trail 1935.

Background

This coin, anniversary and design were all the work of a numismatist F.W. Hoffecker. It celebrated the 400th anniversary of the trail and trials allegedly followed by Spanish explorer Cabeza de Vaca between 1528 and 1536.

The Coin.

The obverse shows the head of a cow, used as a punning device for the explorer's name. Actually the skull includes eyes and nose suggesting more of a head than skull. The appearance is reminiscent of one of Georgia O'Keeffe's paintings, who first painted a cow's skull in 1931 (Cow's Skull: Red, White and Blue). I wonder whether she ever saw this coin! The legend above reads UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, E PLURIBUS UNUM and LIBERTY.



Georgia O'Keeffe Cow's Skull: Red, White & Blue 1931 from Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The legend below reads ALVAR NUNEZ CABEZA DE VACA, HALF DOLLAR.

The reverse shows a yucca tree in full bloom over a map of Cabeza de Vaca's journey as Hoffecker saw it from Florida to the western edge of Texas with the inscription EL PASO. There are dots for the towns on the map which include St. Augustine, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Mobile, New Orleans, Galveston, San Antonio and El Paso. This is completely imaginary of course because none of those towns existed then! The first settled town in America was St. Augustine in 1565. However, Cabeza de Vaca started off on the Gulf coast not the Atlantic coast! The legend reads OLD•SPANISH•TRAIL above and 1535•1935 below. The inscription is IN GOD WE TRUT. Hoffecker's initials L.W.H. are at 4 o'clock along the rim.

Introducing the coin.

L.W. Hoffecker, a coin dealer, originated and promoted this coin entirely for profit. He dreamed up the scheme just like C. Frank Dunn did for the Boone commemoratives. Hoffecker formed and chaired the El Paso Museum Coin Committee. He was also an American Numismatic Association member and later President from 1939 to 1941.

In the late 1920s he and others tried to get a Gadsden purchase half dollar commemorative for the 75th anniversary of the 1853 purchase. But President Herbert Hoover vetoed the coin because of the Mint's history of repeatedly striking then melting commemoratives. Hoover rightly viewed this as wasteful. The El Paso Museum today is the International Museum of Art, El Paso, located in William Turney's old home. (Turney was a Texas legislator, lawyer and rancher). Hoffecker had experience as a coin dealer, and testified before Congress as head of the legislative committee of the American Numismatic Association.

Hoffecker designed the coin but could not do the plaster models. He wrote: "I looked up a local sculptor, who is just as crazy as the rest of them. To keep him at work it was necessary for me to go and get him and bring him to my garage and stay with him all day". Hoffecker took the plasters to the Committee on Fine Arts and wrote: "our models were approved... with a suggestion for.... minor changes which they were willing to waive... to expedite issuing the coin".

It is a testament to his skill before Committees that he was able to leave his initials on the coin and publish an entirely fictitious route for Cabeza de Vaca. With his legislative experience he got the Bill past the Committee on Coinage. Hoffecker later stated that Henry Morgenthau (Secretary of the Treasury), the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and Chairman of the Coinage Committee were all opposed to the coin but he got it through anyway. Hoffecker said that he paid for the entire coinage, and marketed them all.

In September 1935 the Philadelphia Mint struck 10,008 coins (eight for assay). Hoffecker put them up for sale at \$2 to numismatists. That same month Hoffecker wrote to the sculptor, Rovelstad, to say in so many words, "I can help you shepherd your Elgin commemorative coin through Congress".

Hoffecker kept about 1,000 coins for later sale at \$15 over the years, although of course he denied it. He said the profits went to the museum, though what percentage he kept for himself is not known.

In all Hoffecker's writings about the Spanish Trail I would describe him as a swaggering liar. Cornelius Vermeule in his book *Numismatic art in America* said the coin "can safely be designated the ugliest commemorative ever produced by the US Mint". I must say, I totally disagree and consider it one of the most beautiful. Arnie Slabaugh said the coin was made by a collector for collectors. The coin was certainly popular with collectors. It was called also the Spanish Trail commemorative half dollar, or the El Paso commemorative half dollar.

Cabeza de Vaca's Expedition.



Portrait of Cabeza de Vaca left, and Panfilo de Narvaez right.

In 1526, King Carlos I of Spain gave Panfilo de Narvaez a license to claim the gulf coast of Florida for Spain and to search for gold. Narvaez had to fund it himself which he did by marketing the promise of riches like Cortes' trip (Cortez was the Spanish conquistador who conquered the Aztecs seizing immense riches in silver and gold). Cabeza de Vaca (1490-1560) was appointed treasurer and second in charge of Narvaez's expedition.

Cabeza de Vaca was an agnomen like "Stonewall" Jackson or "Magic" Johnson. Apparently Cabeza de Vaca's grandfather used cow's skulls as trail-markers, which his family adopted as a family symbol. The first Cabeza de Vaca may have been a thirteenth century shepherd ancestor, who received the title from the King of Navarre for showing his forces a hidden mountain pass (marked by a cow's skull) through which they made a successful rearguard attack (winning the battle of Las Navas de Tolosa) against the Moors in 1212.

Cabeza de Vaca and Narvaez sailed from Spain to the West Indies in 1527 in five ships and with 600 people, including mainly soldiers, but also sailors, wives and slaves. They arrived in Santo Domingo (where 100 men deserted), then sailed to Cuba (Narvaez's home). They then sent ships to Trinidad, a town in Cuba, to buy horses and supplies. But these ships were destroyed by a hurricane, loosing another 60 men. Narvaez left Cuba with 400 people and 80 horses.

In the Spring of 1528 they landed in Boca Ciega Bay, just north of Tampa Bay. They had seen buildings of the Safety Harbor Culture, a Native American group, and went ashore with 300 men in the Jungle Prada Site, an archeological Native American site in modern St. Petersburg. The natives told them that the gold they sought was further north. At this point Narvaez divided his forces into two. One group of 300 were to travel by land, and the other 100 men were to follow them by sea along the Gulf coast, meeting up later.



As detailed a route of Cabeza de Vaca as exists.

The land group marched for two weeks till they found a village near Yankeetown, Florida, where they enslaved the natives and ate their crops, then continued to Apalachee at the west of the Florida panhandle.

They lost contact with the ships, who searched for them for about a year before retreating to Mexico. The land group meanwhile met the Timucua tribe. While crossing the Suwannee river one officer, Juan Velazquez and his horse drowned so his horse was cooked to feed the army. The Timucua chief also sent them some maize.

In June 1528 the Spaniards attacked an Apalachee village thinking it was the capital of the local natives. The Apalachees fought back with guerilla tactics. Captives told the Spaniards that a village called Aute had lots of food. But when they reached the village they found it deserted. The wily natives knew that conquistadors were trouble and they told them that food or gold was always just a number of miles north, or over the hill. The same problem plagued De Soto in 1539-1542, and Coronado in 1541-1543 when they explored southern North America, looking for the seven golden cities of Cibola, which never existed.

With chronic starvation and dwindling numbers it was decided in August 1528 to build boats to sail to Mexico. Two hundred and forty-two men sailed in five boats.

But storms and starvation took their toll and reduced them to 80 men by the time they arrived on Galveston Island (or possibly Follet's Island next door) in November 1528.



Enlargement of map of route on land.



Place of Narvaez expedition's landfall in Florida in 1528.

Of the 80 survivors who made it to Galveston island, only 15 survived the winter. Some died of disease or starvation, others possibly assimilated into Native American cultures. Four escaped: Cabeza de Vaca, Andres Dorantes de Carranza, Alonso del Castillo Maldonado, and Esteban the Berber (a black slave). They travelled on foot for eight years, adapting to the lives of the Native Americans with whom they stayed. Cabeza de Vaca described tribes according to their diet e.g. the Roots people, the Fish and Blackberry People, etc. He became very sympathetic to the natives and became a trader and healer. He was always peaceful, eschewing violence with every tribe.

In 1536, near Culiacan, Sinaloa in modern Mexico, the four encountered a Spanish slave taking expedition. The leaders of this expedition were dumbfounded to see a Spaniard dressed like a native, even more so when he spoke perfect Castilian.

Finally, in 1537 Cabeza de Vaca sailed back to Spain. He wrote a book called *Los Naufragios* (The Shipwrecked) detailing his experiences, which was published in 1542. In 1540 he was appointed Governor to Argentina, to try to find a passage to Peru. But another Governor Irala displaced him, probably because Cabeza de Vaca had enlightened views of Native Americans. Irala arrested him and sent him back to Spain for trial in 1545 where he was exonerated. Cabeza de Vaca was probably the first Native American rights advocate.

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US COMMEMORATIVE \$ 1/2, OREGON TRAIL 1926 S. WAGON / INDIAN 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS UNC

1065

14 Historical Coins – CC 18

Oregon Trail Memorial 1926-39

Background

1926 commemorated the heroism of families on the 2,000 mile Oregon Trail with 23,000 deaths en route. It is a mystery to me what the date 1926 has to do with the Oregon Trail, as far as I understand - nothing. Nevertheless, Congress authorized up to 6 million coins (the largest to date had been the Stone Mountain at 5 million). Ezra Meeker's (a trail re-enactor) Oregon Trail Memorial Association (OTMA) said they would use the profits to erect suitable monuments along the trail of important points, but coin profits never went there. The OTMA's abuse of demanding recurrent tiny mintages over the years led to the end of the classical commemorative coin program. In 1939 Congress forbade further minting (which had been allowed ad nauseam in the original bill), and except for the Iowa, Booker T Washington, and Washington/Carver commemorative half dollars, spelt the death knoll to classic commemorative coins.

The Coin.

The obverse shows probably a rendering of Ezra Meeker's covered wagon pulled by two oxen. In the front of the wagon is a mother with a babe in arms (the first baby to be depicted on a commemorative coin, albeit very indistinctly). The sun is setting in the west. A man is walking leading his oxen with a pole. The ground is curved perhaps to stress the distance over the globe covered by the trail, or perhaps to stress obstacles because they were going over a hill. The legend reads IN GOD WE TRUST above, and 1936 below. The inscription reads OREGON TRAIL MEMORIAL with five stars below. The stars possibly refer to the five states crossed between Missouri and Oregon (Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Idaho, and Washington). Behind the wagon is a monogram of JE over LG with a large F to the right, referring to the joint work of Laura Gardin Fraser and James Earle Fraser.

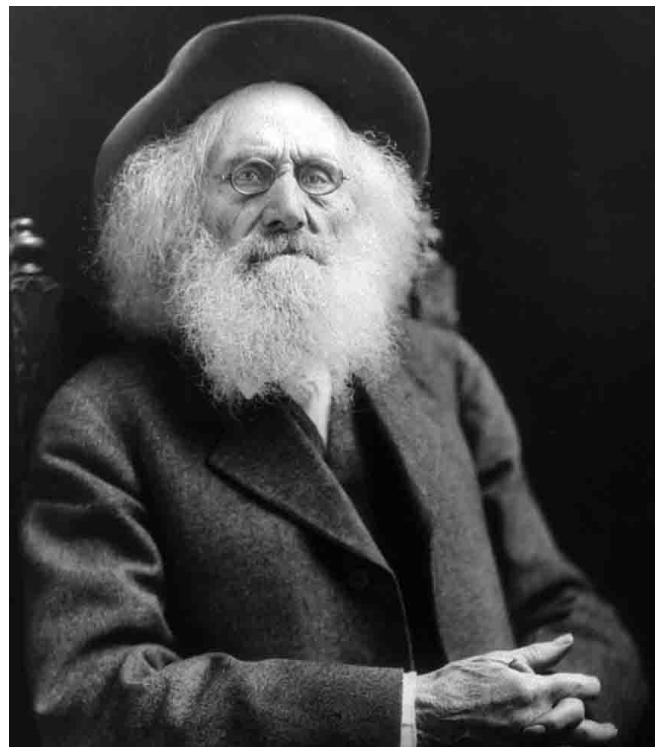
The reverse shows a standing Native American with a long feather headdress, holding a bow horizontally in his right hand. He faces right and holds his left arm up with his hand outstretched perhaps greeting, perhaps waving goodbye, or more likely saying stop! A blanket is thrown over his left shoulder. A line of wagons stretches behind him on the Oregon trail to the Pacific. His bow stretches from the east to the west coast of the map of the United States, perhaps intimating that Native Americans once ruled all this land. The inscription reads UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. The legend reads HALF DOLLAR. The mintmark is at 6-7 o'clock by the rim. The squiggle at 1 o'clock is Hudson Bay.

Introducing the coin.

Ezra Meeker (1830-1928) travelled the Oregon Trail in 1851 and wrote several books on it. In 1907, aged 76 he left his home in Oregon with an ox team and covered wagon to commemorate the Old Oregon Trail in reverse. He took fifteen months to reach St. Louis Missouri.

Meeker was the founder and President of the OTMA till he died aged 98. In 1840, the OTMA was taken over by the American Pioneer Trails Association which publishes maps and history. The more active organization is the Oregon-

California Trails Association in Independence Missouri, dedicated to preserve the trails and the experiences of those who used them.



Ezra Meeker in 1921



Laura Gardin Fraser. Courtesy of Smithsonian Institute.
This is the best open access picture I can get of her.

Laura Gardin Fraser designed the obverse of the coin with the wagon, and her husband James Earle Fraser designed the reverse with the Native American. Actually the Frasers considered the Wagon to be the reverse, but the mint decided the opposite and the convention has stuck ever since.

During the month of August 1926 the Commission of Fine Arts approved the plaster in glowing terms, the plasters were sent to the Medallic Art Company, who made dies with their reducing lathe, and shipped them to the Philadelphia Mint. In 1933 the Oregon Trail Commemorative half dollar was struck at the Denver Mint, the first time a commemorative coin was struck at this facility.

The OTMA in New York City sold all 48,000 Philadelphia coins at \$1 each, and asked for an additional 100,000 coins from the San Francisco mint. However, they did not pay for them and requested more San Francisco 1927 coins. The Treasury refused until they had been paid for. The OTMA thought different years and mintmarks would be attractive. But people did not buy the coins. Below are the approximate mintages in thousands according to the "Redbook":

Year	P	D	S	Promotional name
1926	48	-	83	Ezra Meeker
1928	6	-	-	Jedidiah Smith (50K minted 44K melted)
1933	-	5	-	Chicago Century of Progress Expo
1934	-	7	-	Fort Hall, Fort Laramie, and Jason Lee
1936	10	-	5	Whitman Centennial
1937	-	12	-	(stopped the idiocy of names for each)
1938	6	6	6	-
1939	3	3	3	-

All of this after they had asked for 6 million coins! Wayte Raymond of Scott Stamp and Coin Co. advertised that he was the only distributor. Having sold the 1926 coins for \$1, he sold 1928 and 1933 coins for \$2. He cultivated low mintages to appeal to collectors, and gave silly names to each coin to try to help market the different years. Today virtually no one even mentions it!

Modern commemoratives typically are minted in the 10,000's to millions. The lowest distribution so far is the 2017 business strike Boys Town Centennial gold half eagle with a distribution of 2,947. The lowest for a silver coin so far is the business strike Boys Town Centennial silver dollar at 12,256. But the US population in 1930 was 123 million; today it is 326 million, three times the size.

In 1937, Wayte Raymond's marketing agreement terminated. After that the coins were sold by OTMA in New York City. The 1937 D was sold at \$1.60, the 1938 P, D, S set sold for \$6.25, and the 1939 set sold for \$7.50. Although most were sold during the great depression, I imagine many people asking "surely during the depression people did not want to buy coins, just food?" That is true if you were one of the unfortunate unemployed. But peak unemployment was 25% in 1933, and by 1939 fell to 17%. That meant that 75% to 83% of people still had jobs and enjoyed hobbies.

Many numismatists at the time felt the Oregon Trail program was exploitative so they would not buy them. John J. Ford said Wayte Raymond had a tremendous surplus of them. Most of the 1926 issue was sold to the public as numismatists were not willing to buy both a 1926P and 1926S. However, the 1928 to 1939 coins went to numismatists. There are one or two matte proofs of the 1926P.

The Oregon Trail.

The Oregon Trail was not a single trail but a composite of several different trails. The 1804 to 1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition might be considered a precursor to the Oregon Trail. They went up the Missouri River to the mouth of the Columbia River, crossing the continental divide in North Idaho at the Lemhi pass and the Lolo Pass. However, they used a path which was not practicable for wagons to cross the continental divide.

Starting in Independence, Missouri (now part of Kansas City) the Oregon Trail ended in Oregon City (now part of Portland). It took around 160 days to travel it in 1849. The trail swelled the population of distant territories, later adding new states to the Union.



Early passes over the Continental Divide.

John Jacob Astor founded the Pacific Fur Company and sent two expeditions to what is now called the Pacific Northwest. The first was on a ship, the Tonquin, to Columbia River. They built Fort Astoria in 1811. The same year Wilson Price Hunt (for Astor) led the second expedition overland, using the Teton and Union Passes, and showed the route was practical with a pack train. Robert Stuart led a party back east. Just like Hunt, he preferred to travel further south for fear of Indian attacks, and in the process discovered the South Pass, entering the Sweetwater valley then the north Platte River valley.

Naturally, travelers needed water along the route, so following rivers or streams helped enormously. It was not practicable to travel by boat as Lewis and Clark had done because there were so many falls and rapids, and portage made the whole trip far too arduous. So travelling along the side of rivers or streams was preferable. One of the most important issues however, was how to cross mountain passes, and the most important was the Continental Divide. A divide is the line between two different watersheds. It is the drainage divide on a continent such that the drainage basin on one side of the divide feeds into one ocean or body of water, and the basin on the other side feeds into another.



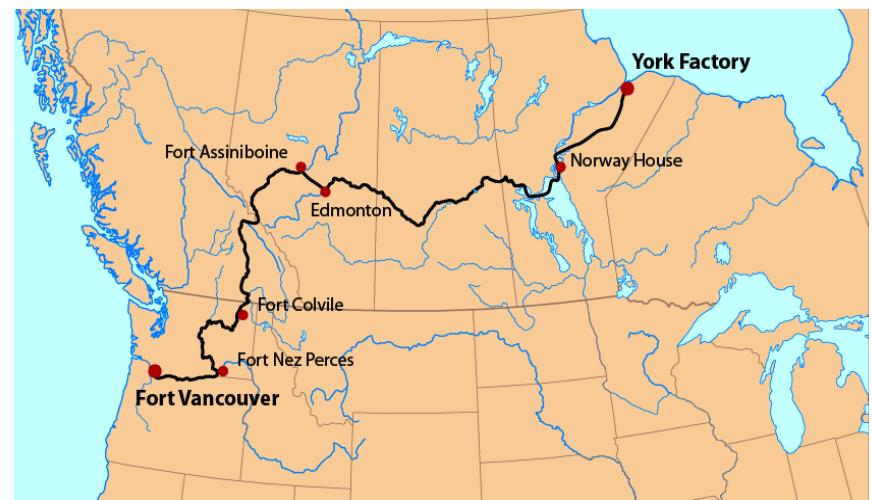
Astor's expeditions reached Oregon in 1811, the same year David Thompson of the British North West Company traveled through western Canada to the Columbia River. Astor, concerned during the war of 1812-14 about losing everything, sold his forts to the British. The Treaty of Ghent in 1814 restored Oregon Territory to the US, but in an 1818 convention established joint occupation. In 1821 the British government forced a merger of the Hudson Bay Company and North West Company creating a monopoly.

Between 1810 and 1840, up to 3,000 mountain men roamed the north American Rockies exploring and fur trapping. Beaver furs were prime in the fall and could sell for \$4, almost a week's wages (a farm hand in 1820 made 50¢ to \$1 a day).

The first Rendezvous between trappers living in the west and traders from the east was in 1825 at Henry Fork on the Green River west of the Continental Divide (see map next page). People celebrated at the camp for several weeks. After this there was an annual Rendezvous between east and west which allowed the exchange of goods without having to travel the entire 2,000 miles of the Oregon Trail.

In 1830, William Sublette brought the first wagons north of the North Platte River and Sweetwater River to the South Pass over the continental divide. The United States government also sent Captain Benjamin Bonneville to explore the Oregon Trail in 1832 to 1834. They also sent Maj. Gen. John Fremont (1813-1890) with his guide, Kit Carson; together they explored California and Oregon further between 1842 to 1846.

In 1825, after Fort Vancouver had been expanded, the Hudson Bay Company started the York Factory Express, in which one brigade started from York Factory, and one from Fort Vancouver. They would meet in the middle and exchange furs, supplies and some people. The route was 2,600 miles but meeting half-way meant each party only had to travel 1,300 miles, just like the Rendezvous of the Americans on the Green River each year. The 1,300-mile journey usually took 100 days for each side. A factor was a trader or agent, so the York Factory did not mean they made things, it was simply a trading station. A ship also came yearly (round Cape Horn) from London with heavy supplies for the fort and to take furs and people. Please see the article on the Fort Vancouver Centennial commemorative half dollar for further details (pages 108 – 113).



The British Hudson Bay Company also came to the annual American Rendezvous and started predatory pricing (selling below cost) of fur to put US traders out of business. But by 1840 men's hat fashions changed favoring silk hats and beaver fur was no longer in demand. At the same time US emigration to Oregon started to overwhelm the Hudson Bay Company who had previously discouraged immigration hoping to maintain a fur monopoly.

The First Oregon Trail Travelers.

In 1839, eighteen men left Peoria, Illinois for Oregon Territory; only nine arrived but this was the beginning. The next year two families arrived with wagons at Hudson Bay Company's Fort Walla Walla. In 1841 and 1842 large parties began arriving in wagons. In 1843 the Great Migration occurred with 700 – 1,000 people i.e. they travelled together. They finally completely cleared the trail in 1846.



Wagon trails beside named rivers on the Oregon Trail and Lewis and Clark's Trail.

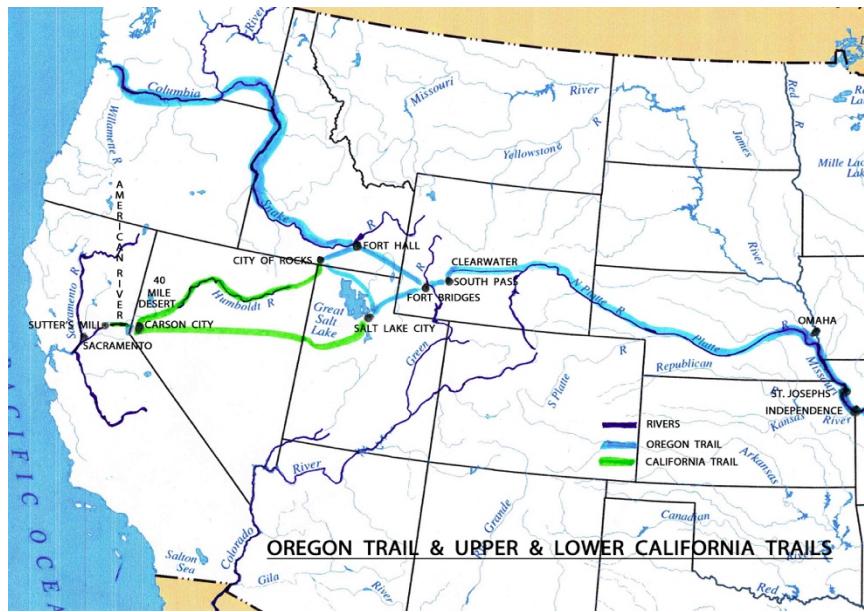
In 1846, the Oregon Treaty established the Canadian border on the 49th parallel meaning that the State of Washington with its Columbia River was now in US not British territory. The British left.

In 1847, Brigham Young led an advance party of 2,200 men to Utah along the Oregon Trail, through the South Pass (see map on right), crossing Green River to Salt Lake City. They started in Nauvoo, Illinois on the east bank of the Mississippi River. Instead of starting along the Missouri River they cut across the border between present day Iowa and Missouri to the Platte/Missouri River junction where the overwintered. Without women and children, the group travelled much faster, and they wanted to do this to reconnoiter the best route.

Between 1847 and 1860, 43,000 Mormons travelled the trail to Salt Lake City. Poor Mormons used hand carts, though most still used covered wagons. The Mormon trail left the Oregon Trail at Fort Bridges and travelled over the Wasatch Mountains to Salt Lake. In 1848 a trail to the City of Rocks allowed travel back to the Oregon trail. At that point Salt Lake City became a stopover point for travel, rejoining the Oregon trail was easy.

In 1848, James Marshall found gold at Sutter's Mill in northern California. Two-thirds of Oregon's men are said to have left, cutting a wagon trail through forests into gold country. The next year the "49ers" used the Oregon Trail to get to gold country. That year 25,000 travelled the trail creating new routes to get to gold country. The northern route went via City of Rocks, then crossed Nevada along

the Humboldt River, which became very alkaline towards the end of the journey, and terminated in the Humboldt sink, leaving 40 miles of desert to cross before arriving in Carson City. This was quite dangerous. The southern route followed streams through western Utah and Nevada and was much safer.

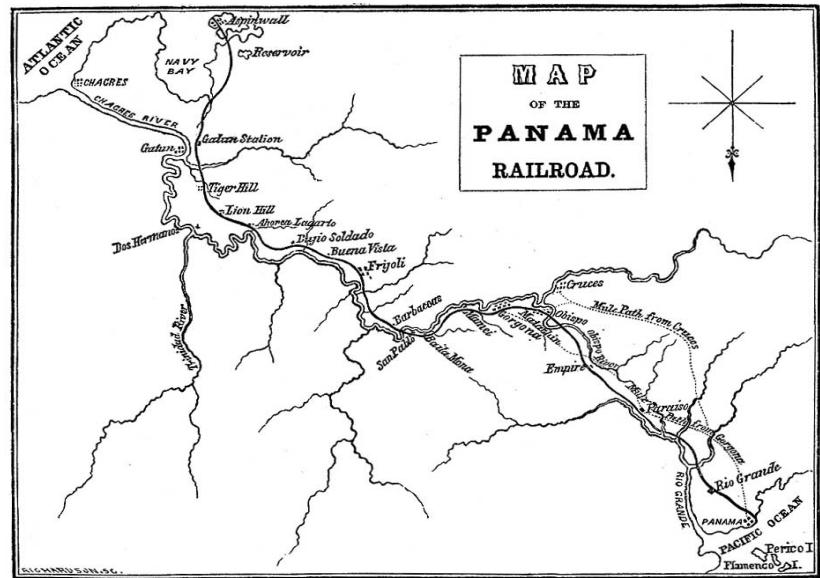


Oregon Trails and Upper and Lower California Trails.

In 1855 the Panama Railroad was completed, connecting Aspinwall (on the Atlantic) and Panama City (on the Pacific). There was a Pacific steamer route back and forth from San Francisco to Panama City, and an Atlantic steamer route back and forth from Aspinwall to New Orleans and New York. Oregon Trail traffic to California dropped from 12,000 in 1854 to 1,500 in 1855.



Panama Railroad Stock Certificate 1870



Map of First Panama Railroad 1855

In 1860, the Pony Express started for mail, from St. Joseph, Missouri (a little up-river from Independence) to Sacramento, California. There were relay stations every 10 miles. The journey took only ten days. The investment was enormous, but it failed the next year because the transcontinental telegraph line was laid, and the US government did not give the Pony Express the expected mail contract. Soon thereafter stage coaches followed with a route that took four weeks.



In 1869, the US completed the transcontinental railroad when the last spike was ceremoniously driven in at Promontory Point in Utah. With a one-way ticket costing only \$65 the Oregon trail became moribund.

From 1840 to 1869 an estimated 80,000 had travelled the Oregon Trail, 250,000 the California Trail, and 70,000 the Utah Trail.



Conestoga Wagon, note bowed floor and oblique overhanging ends.



Covered Wagon, note flat floor, shallower box, less overhang on ends.

Travelers typically used a covered wagon or occasionally a hand wagon. It is said that the Conestoga wagon was used on the Oregon Trail but this is highly unlikely. The Conestoga was named after the Conestoga Township in Lancaster, Pennsylvania where Mennonites made them. It was built with a curved floor so that goods tended to stay put in the center. It was 18 feet long, the bed was 4 feet high, and watertight with tar caulking for crossing rivers. Water barrels, tool boxes, and feed boxes were fixed to the outside. The wheels were wide and had iron "tires". The ends sloped out markedly. It was big and heavy probably weighing around 3,000 lbs. empty and could carry up to 12,000 lbs. of goods. It needed a team of 8 horses or 12 oxen to pull.

By contrast a Covered Wagon or "Prairie Schooner" weighed 1,300 lbs. It could carry up to 2,000 lbs. of goods. The ends were more vertical. White canvas over hoops made it look like a schooner from a distance. It was 10 feet long with a shallower box of 2 – 3 feet also watertight. Both the Conestoga Wagon and Covered Wagon were 4 feet wide. Both tended to have rear wheels of 5 feet. Front wheels were smaller to make turns easier. The Conestoga was a specific design, but there were many adaptations of farm wagons. Less oxen were needed to pull a covered wagon, depending on the weight of the wagon.

I suspect that Laura Gardin Fraser used Ezra Meekin's Wagon as a model for her plaster. The wagon had some features of both a Conestoga and a covered wagon, which is why so many people to this day believe that people crossed the Oregon Trail in Conestoga wagons. Comparing a Conestoga Wagon with a Covered Wagon is today equivalent to the difference between an 18 wheeler tractor-trailer and a small van.



Ezra Meeker's Wagon used to cross the Oregon Trail in 1907.

The Hand cart weighed 60 lbs. and only had two wheels also 5 feet high. There was a cross bar in front to push, the Cargo box could carry 250 lbs. and was 3 by 4 feet by 1 to 2 feet high.



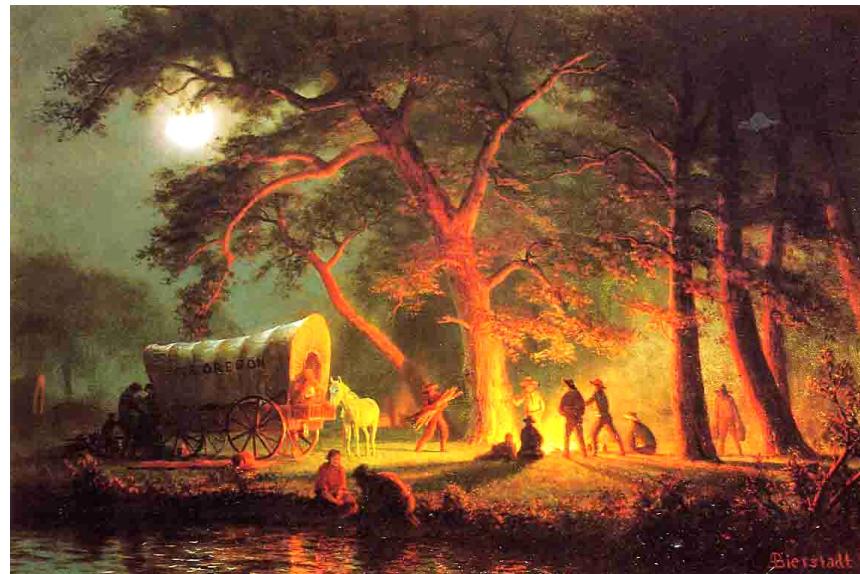
Hand Cart, used especially by Mormons often in combination with Wagons.



Note similarity between Ezra Meeker's wagon and the coin's wagon.

Travelers often preferred oxen (castrated bulls) to horses or donkeys to pull wagons. Oxen could survive on prairie grass and vegetation, whereas horses and mules needed feed. Six oxen cost \$75 in 1846, but six horses or mules cost \$600. Oxen also tended to be more docile. They could cover 15 miles a day to a mule or horse's 20 miles. Oxen were less likely to run off or be stolen by Native Americans. Even if oxen strayed they could easily be caught by a horseman.

Travelers needed a six months' supply of food, a water keg, tent, bedding, tools, and personal effects, they often brought extra animals in case of accidents, disease or for food insurance. Riding in the cart was too bumpy so most travelers walked or rode a horse.



"Oregon Trail" by Albert Bierstadt, captures the romance of the Oregon Trail.

Time line of Oregon Trail

- 1804-6 Lewis and Clark Expedition Lolo and Lemhi Passes
- 1811 Astor – Hunt's expedition West uses Union then Teton Pass by pack train
–Stuart's expedition East uses South Pass
- 1814 Astor sells Fort Astor to Hudson Bay Company
- 1821 British government forces merger of Hudson Bay and North West Cos.
- 1825 First year of annual York Factory Express Rendezvous and ship to Fort Vancouver
- 1825 First Rendezvous on Henry's Fork on Green River then annual rendezvous at various meeting points in the Green River area usually west of the Continental Divide around the 42nd parallel
- 1830 William Sublette - first wagon trail over South Pass
- 1840 Beaver trade collapses
- 1846 Oregon Treaty, Canada/US border at 49th parallel
- 1840-60 Heyday of Oregon Trail emigration to Oregon, Utah and California

1848 Sutter's Mill gold discovered

1849 49ers start traveling California Trail for gold

1855 Panama Railroad completed – trail traffic drops by 90% in one year

1860 Pony Express – lasted only one year

1861 Transcontinental telegraph completed

1869 Transcontinental Railroad completed Promontory Point – trail traffic ends

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US COMMEMORATIVE \$ 1/2, PILGRIM TERCENTENARY 1920. BRADFORD / MAYFLOWER 30.6MM, 12.5 GRAMS UNC

1444

14 Historical Coins – CC 7

Pilgrim Tercentenary 1920 - 1921

Background

1920 was the 300th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, Massachusetts. The English Pilgrims fled religious persecution to Holland then to America, stopping at Plymouth, England on their journey over.

The coin.

The obverse shows an idealized image of the upper torso of Governor William Bradford (1590-1657) of the Pilgrim's colony at Plymouth. No one knows what he looked like, so the sculpture is fictitious. He looks down and holds a bible in his left arm. He wears the conical rounded hat of a Pilgrim called a capotain with a hatband and buckle in front. Today these hats are often depicted with flat tops. But the Pilgrims did not use buckles – they were too expensive, and not even fashionable till years later.

The legend reads *UNITED•STATES•OF• AMERICA* above, and PILGRIM• HALF• DOLLAR below. Also below at 5 o'clock by the rim is an incuse D for the sculptor Cyrus E. Dallin. It is thought that a Denver Mint punch-mark was used on the hub (a negative to the die, so that the D would appear incuse on the coin), as an afterthought because on his plaster casts his initials C.E.D. are in relief and those were not transferred to the die. In the right field is the inscription IN GOD WE TRUST.

Interestingly these details speak to using the Janvier reducing lathe for reducing the plaster casts in 1920 to small dies. The minting of the 1921 Peace dollar is often considered the beginning of the reducing lathe era. Mint engravers before that date used tools to push metal around on softened steel dies. Mint engravers after that date made plaster-of-Paris or other large casts that were reduced on a lathe to make small coin dies. Although the US Mint had a Janvier reducing lathe from 1907, perhaps Mint employees could not operate it. Interestingly the Medallic Arts Company made many commemorative dies between 1892 and 1921 perhaps because they knew how to operate their reducing lathe.

The reverse shows the three-masted Mayflower in full sail to the west on choppy seas. The spar extending from the front holds a triangular sail or "jib", this is apparently not accurate for the time: the sail would have been square. The legend above reads PILGRIM•TERCENTENARY•CELEBRATION, and below *1620 – 1920*

Introduction of the coin.

The Pilgrim Tercentennial Commission (PTC) suggested the design for the commemorative coin to help pay for celebrations throughout New England in 1920. Massachusetts Congressional Representative Joseph Walsh introduced a bill requesting 500,000 coins. Ohio Democratic Congressman Warren Gard asked why not 100,000 like the Maine Centennial commemorative half dollar? Walsh replied in so many words: "It's the occasion stupid!" apparently meaning 500,000 for a tercentennial and 100,000 for a centennial. As Walter Breen and Anthony Swiatek said in their 1981 Commemorative book "this brought gales of laughter for (Walsh's) queer sense of arithmetic". Someone else said it was a misprint for

300,000. This explanation apparently satisfied Congress, and the bill passed on May 12th, 1920. This was rather late in the day to get a commemorative coin in production. So they asked Cyrus E. Dallin, a Boston sculptor famous for his depiction of Native Americans, to do the casts.

PTC showed the finished plasters to the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA). James Earle Fraser, CFA sculptor member, liked the artwork but not the lettering. But there was no time to fix it. 200,112 coins were struck at the Philadelphia Mint October 1920 (112 for the Assay Commission). The National Shawmut Bank in Boston sold them for \$1 starting in November – obviously missing the summer celebrations.

In 1921, PTC asked for the remaining authorized 100,000 coins which were then struck with the date 1921 added in the left obverse field (creating a coin with three dates: 1620, 1920 and 1921). Breen and Swiatek point out that this conformed to the 1873 Mint Act which said a coin had to have the year of minting on the coin.

Ultimately 152,112 coins without the 1921 date were distributed. Only 20,053, coins with the 1921 date were distributed (53 for the Assay Commission) perhaps because of a financial panic that year (called a recession today). That meant a quarter of the 1920 and four fifths of the 1921 coins were re-melted. This spoke relatively early in the classic commemorative coin program to the recurring and objectionable practice of asking the mint to strike large numbers of coins then returning the unsold coins for re-melting.

The PTC, for the first time in commemorative coinage, were trying to hook the collector into buying two coins not one by creating two different years of mintage. Later commemorative entrepreneurs would try the same with different mints, years and sets. Most 1920 pieces were sold to the public but the 1921 pieces mostly went into the hands of dealers, speculators, and numismatists.



Cyrus E. Dallin sculptor 1861 – 1944.

History of the Pilgrims.

Bradford was Governor intermittently from 1621 - 1656 and wrote a book “of Plimouth (sic) Plantation” describing daily life there. The following history is taken from my book *Notable Notes*:

When the Protestant English Queen Elizabeth died in 1603 James VI of Scotland was next in line for the English throne and became King James I of England. Puritans and non-Anglican Protestants called Separatists were then persecuted and imprisoned. A group of separatists called Pilgrims under Robinson, Brewster and Bradford, left England for Leiden, Holland.

In Leiden the Pilgrims’ children started adopting Dutch ways and the adults had to adapt to an industrial rather than agricultural community. After Brewster published criticism of James I in 1618 English agents in Holland tried to arrest him, so the Pilgrims sought new soil. In 1619 they got a land patent from the London Virginia Company and obtained financing through the Merchant Adventurers, who were Puritan businessmen.

The Pilgrims were Calvinists who felt the Anglican Church of England was morally bankrupt and so left it. They actually called themselves “Saints” not Pilgrims, and as Calvinists they felt they were predestined to have a special place in heaven. By contrast the Puritans wanted to reform or “purify” the Church of England from within.

The Pilgrims first set sail in the ship “Speedwell” from Holland as depicted on the engraving on the back of the \$10,000 FRN (Federal Reserve Note) called the “Embarkation of the Pilgrims”. The note is not affordable. The engraving is also found on the back of the First Charter \$50 National Banknote.

After many delays thirty Pilgrims in the Speedwell and ninety more in the Mayflower sailed from Southampton in late 1620. The Speedwell took on too much water and had to stop twice. Eventually all passengers (by now 102) sailed in the Mayflower. Some say Speedwell’s master intentionally sabotaged his ship to avoid the dangerous trans-Atlantic voyage. Originally scheduled to settle in the mouth of the Hudson, they had difficulty reaching it and ran low on food so landed and settled instead in Plymouth in modern day Massachusetts. They sought land patents for Plymouth in 1621 from the Plymouth council, a group of businessmen. These patents had previously expired after the failed 1607 Popham Colony, an English settlement in Maine.

European fishermen had fished in the northeast for over 100 years with temporary summer settlements. Champlain explored the area in 1605 and Captain John Smith also explored it in 1614 and published a book in 1616 called “A Description of New England”. Local Native American populations had been ravaged by European diseases and almost died out in some areas.

The Mayflower first anchored at Provincetown Harbor, Cape Cod on November 11th. The Pilgrims found evidence of a previous European fort there. They drafted and signed the Mayflower Compact, the first democratic document of the New World, to govern the colony. They spent about a month near Provincetown, Cape

Cod, angering Native Americans by raiding their corn stores. After skirmishing with them they decided to move elsewhere.



Detail from \$10,000 Federal Reserve Note Back, Bureau of Engraving and Printing Souvenir Card “Embarkation of Pilgrims”

Soon after, Miles Standish led three expeditions on Cape Cod but the Pilgrims largely stayed on board. They again anchored in Plymouth Harbor on December 17th and reconnoitered for a site for three days. The landing of the Pilgrims usually refers to their landfall in Plymouth not on Cape Cod. Numerous pictures and sculptures have depicted the moment.



“Embarkation of the Pilgrims” first painted by Adam Willaerts in Delfshaven 1620. A copy by Robert Weir 1844 now hangs in US Capitol Rotunda. It shows William Brewster holding bible, and pastor John Robinson leading families in prayer.



Henry Bacon's "Landing of the Pilgrims" 1877 depicting 15-year-old Mary Chilton, first person to step ashore. Her parents James and Susanna died in the first winter.

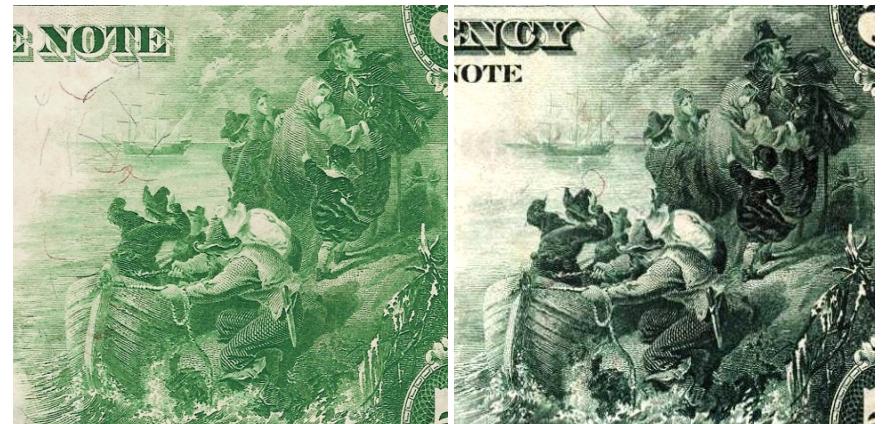
After reconnoitering they built a communal house, then further buildings. Forty-five of the 102 died that winter. In March 1621 a Native American, Samoset, who had learned English from fishermen, introduced himself and told them about Squanto.

Squanto was a local Indian who had been abducted in 1614 by the English and enslaved by Spanish Roman Catholic monks. He then escaped to England and became a guide for an English explorer. The English explorer was killed by Massasoit, the local Indian chief, thus rescuing Squanto.

Massasoit knew that the pilgrims had stolen corn, robbed a grave, and that previous Englishmen had killed members of his tribe without reason. Nevertheless, they established a peace treaty. Squanto stayed with the Pilgrims teaching them how to survive and translating for them.

In 1621, another ship "Fortune" delivered 37 new settlers to Plymouth and returned with £500 of goods to repay their debt, but the ship was captured by the French. In 1623 more ships and settlers arrived and by 1630 there were about 300 colonists in Plymouth.

The Massachusetts Bay Colony was another migration of English people seeking religious freedom. The first wave to Boston in 1630 comprised 1,000 Puritan refugees. Between 1630 and 1640, 20,000 more Puritan colonists arrived in Massachusetts Bay Colony ("the Great Migration") dwarfing Plymouth. In 1691 Plymouth was absorbed into Massachusetts Bay Colony.



Left: Landing of Pilgrims by Charles Burt from back of \$5 Federal Reserve Bank Note. Right: from back of \$5 Federal Reserve Note. Notice the Mayflower in the background.

Above are engravings of the landing of the Pilgrims from a FRBN (Federal Reserve Bank Note) and FRN (Federal Reserve Note) circulating US currency in 1914.

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https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/99/Cyrus_Edwin_Dallin.png



1937 ROANOKE 350TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEM \$ 1/2 RALEIGH/DARE 12.5 GRAMS, 30.6MM PCGS MS 64

1339

14 Historical Coins – CC 45

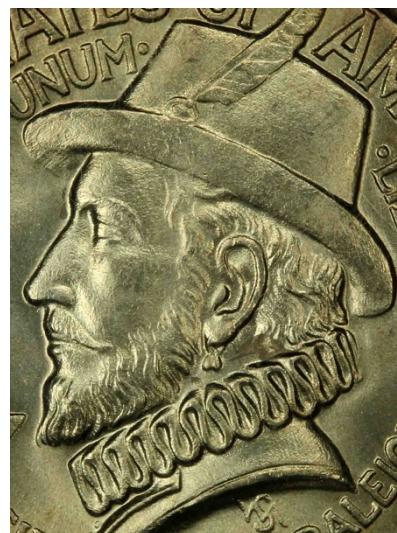
Roanoke Island 350th Anniversary 1937

Background

1937 was the 350th anniversary of the lost colony of Roanoke, an early British settlement sent to Roanoke Island in 1587. In 1588 it became impossible to resupply the colony because that year the Spanish Armada tried to invade England with 30,000 soldiers and 130 ships. Every available English ship was needed to protect England, and this prevented the resupply ship from leaving England until 1590. When they arrived the colony was gone.

The coin.

The obverse shows the bust of possibly Errol Flynn posing as (see below) Sir Walter Raleigh facing left, wearing a plumed hat and ruffled collar, a common Elizabethan form of dress. Below the truncation is the artist's monogram WMS for William Mark Simpson. The legends are rather crowded and read: •UNITED• STATES• OF• AMERICA•, E• PLURIBUS• UNUM• •LIBERTY• above, and •SIR WALTER RALEIGH•, •HALF• DOLLAR• below. The date 1937 is in the left field.



Roanoke half dollar obverse portrait of Raleigh left. Errol Flynn right.

The reverse of the coin shows Virginia Dare, the first English person to be born on American soil. She is held by her mother Eleanor, John White's daughter. John White was the Governor and leader of the expedition. Eleanor stands on a piece of ground with a small branch of what looks like Ginkgo, but is reputed to be a pine sapling. The ground forms an exergue beneath which is the date 1587-1937. There are two small identical ships in left and right field, sailing east. They are three-masted and have triangular aft sails which may not be accurate for the time. They may represent Raleigh's 1584 expedition to the New World.

The crowded legends read: •THE• COLONIZATION• OF• ROANOKE• ISLAND• NORTH• CAROLINA•, and inside this •THE• BIRTH• OF VIRGINIA• DARE•. In the left field is the inscription IN GOD WE TRUST.

Introducing the coin.

The Roanoke Colony Memorial Association of Manteo (RCMA) was located in the town of Manteo, Roanoke, North Carolina. They organized a celebration at Old Fort Raleigh on Roanoke Island in August 1937. This was the site of the original fort of the colonists.



1930s reconstruction of Old Fort Raleigh on Roanoke Island.

Congress passed enabling legislation for a coin specifying a minimum mintage of 25,000, but not specifying any maximum, though wisely stating that none could be struck after July 1937, to prevent later abuses. They also specified that all coins have the date 1937 regardless of when struck.

The RCMA asked the Baltimore artist William Marks Simpson to design and prepare models. The models were presented in September to the Commission of Fine Arts, with the date as 1936 and Raleigh's name spelt correctly as Raleigh. Simpson had researched this extensively, presenting his research to the Commission. But they were not interested. They told him to rework the date as 1937, and inscribe the name as Raleigh! The plasters were sent to the Medallic Art Company, who made the dies and sent them to the Philadelphia Mint in December 1936.

Cornelius Vermeule says "Raleigh resembles a movie actor Errol Flynn, who was specializing in Elizabethan dramatics at the time Simpson was creating this coin". Indeed, Anthony Swiatek and Walter Breen in their 1981 book (see references) say the "Obverse portrays Errol Flynn posing as Sir Walter Raleigh".

In January 1937 the Philadelphia Mint struck 25,015 coins (15 of which were for assay), and again in June they struck another 25,015 coins. The RCMA sold them at \$1.65. They also offered a pamphlet that they encouraged purchasers to buy for 55¢. Only 29,000 coins were sold over several succeeding years, and the rest, as usual, were returned to the Philadelphia Mint for re-melting.



Queen Elizabeth I of England. Pelican portrait by Nicholas Hillard.

The story of the “Lost Colony of Roanoke”.

Queen Elizabeth of England wanted England to participate in settling the New World. The Spanish had a 100-year advance on them, and she did not want to be left behind. She had awarded privateering contracts to a number of men. Privateers were basically state sponsored pirates who could attack any Spanish ship and return to England and split the profits with the queen.

In 1570, Sir Walter Raleigh's half-brother, Sir Humphrey Gilbert (1539-1583?) convinced Queen Elizabeth that there could be a Northwest passage to the East Indies, through America, and possibly gold along the way! The queen gave him a six-year contract in 1578 to settle land there.



Sir Humphrey Gilbert.

In 1578, Raleigh (?1552?-1618) and Gilbert sailed to America with seven ships to reconnoiter North America. The expedition failed, though no one knows why. A second voyage to establish a colony between Cape Hatteras and the Hudson River sailed with five ships in 1583 (others say 1582). Gilbert was lost at sea, some say off Brittany, some say off the Azores, some say off Newfoundland. Sir Walter Raleigh took over Gilbert's contract to settle North America, due to expire in 1584. But because the queen favored Raleigh, she forbade him to partake in explorations in person. Consequently, although Raleigh financed and organized expeditions, he never actually set foot in America

I will now deal in detail with each of the five voyages relating to the “Lost Colony of Roanoke”. The five voyages were:

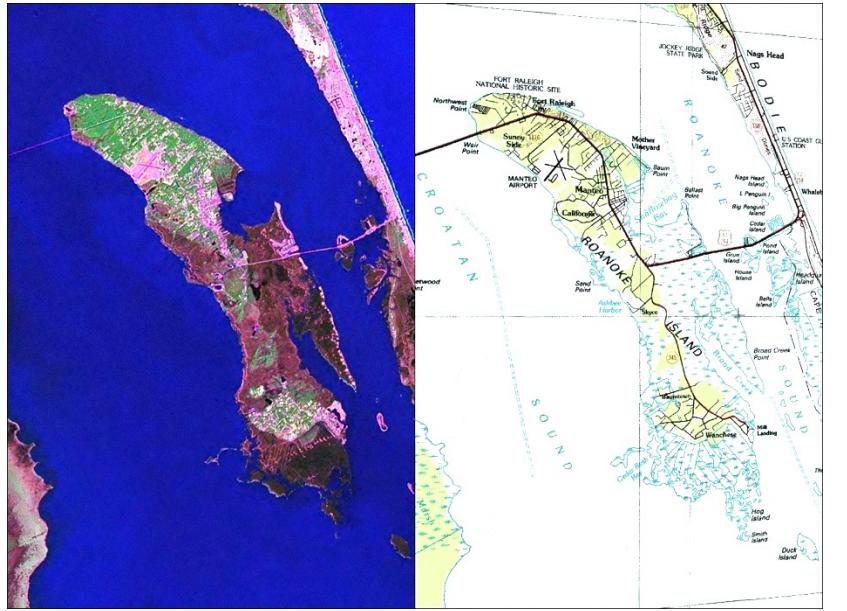
1. 1584: 2 ships under Amadas & Barlow, naming Virginia, and staying 6 weeks.
2. 1585: 7 ships and 600 soldiers under Grenville and Lane, with White as artist. Grenville left to get supplies leaving the soldiers to overwinter. Sir Francis Drake brought them back in 1586.
3. 1586 Grenville arrives finds them gone, and leaves fifteen men in a fort.
4. 1587 White brings 117 colonists, White is persuaded to leave.
5. 1590 White returns only to find the colony deserted.

1584 trip.

In 1584 Sir Walter Raleigh funded two ships to find land suitable for a colony in America. The ships were under Captain Philip Amadas, aged 19, and Captain Arthur Barlow, with Simon Fernandez as pilot. They sailed on April 27th, 1584 to the outer banks, a chain of barrier islands east of present day North Carolina.



Sir Walter Raleigh. Portrait by William Segar in 1598.



Modern day satellite view and map of Roanoke Island, note Manteo and Wanchese.



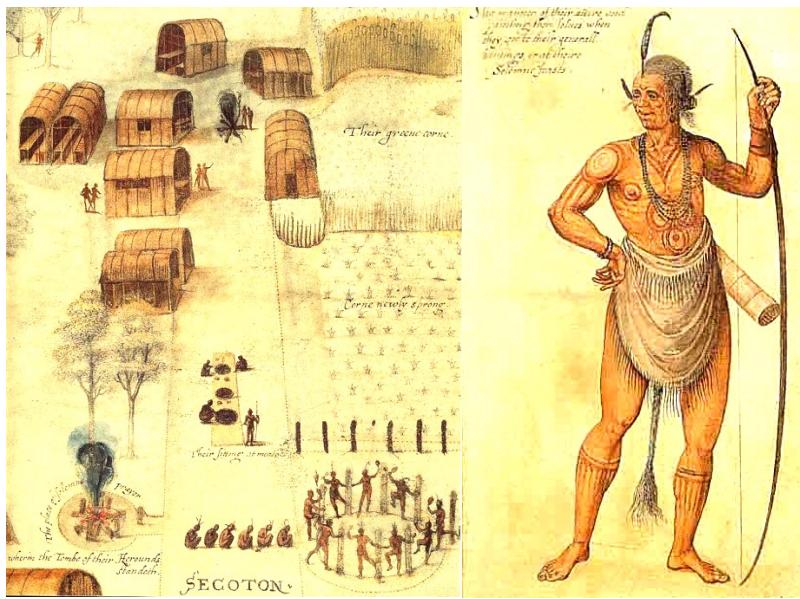
Map of Roanoke environs. Croatoan is very long, now called Hatteras Island.

Raleigh labelled the area Virginia, after the Virgin Queen Elizabeth I whom the English referred to as the “Virgin Queen” (historians feel it is highly unlikely she was a virgin). The party landed on the thirteenth of July. They were interested in this area because it jutted out into the Gulf Stream, which often carried Spanish galleons carrying gold and silver they wanted to intercept. Amadas and Barlow contacted peaceful Croatoan and Roanoke Indians, exchanged gifts and explored the area. They met Wingina, Chief of the Roanokes, and Manteo, Chief of the Croatoans. After a six week stay Manteo and another Indian, Wanchese, both agreed to return to England with them.

1585 trip.

In 1585, Raleigh sent seven ships and 600 men to Roanoke. Amadas was second in naval command to Sir Richard Grenville. The overall commander and military Governor on Roanoke was Sir Ralph Lane. They also took with them an artist and cartographer, John White (1540-1593), and Thomas Harriot, a mathematician and scientist who made navigation charts and learnt the local language of Manteo. It was Harriot who brought back potatoes (unknown in Europe) and planted them on Raleigh’s Irish estate. It was also Harriot who introduced smoking to England, though Raleigh was the one who popularized it.

They set sail from Plymouth on April 9th, 1585, Grenville in the ship Tyger, along with four other ships and two pinnaces. One pinnace was lost on the voyage but they stopped in Puerto Rico and built another. They landed on the mainland on June 24th, and on July 29th they started unloading in Roanoke. Unfortunately, Tyger ran aground and heeled over spoiling much of the seeds they brought with them to plant. In August ships left at various times. White only stayed a few weeks during which time he painted Indian life.



White's watercolor of Secoton, tribe in Roanoke, and of Manteo, Croatan chief.

On September 18th Grenville arrived in Plymouth in a Spanish galleon he had captured on the way back to England. He had left Roanoke to go back for supplies. Meanwhile the soldiers lived in a stockade fort under Sir Ralph Lane. Supplies ran very low. Roanoke Chief Wingina gave them food early on but soon felt they would starve themselves if they continued, so the Roanoke natives later left the island to avoid conflict.

The 600 soldiers stayed a year on the island. But they stole food from the natives as they ran short of food. One native took a silver cup, which he may have thought was an exchange for gifts. But the English under Grenville felt it was stolen so they responded by burning a village, as well as the Native's crops.

After a winter of starvation, the English, bitter at being left to starve, attacked the Roanokes. The English were said to be brutal and belligerent because of their experiences in Ireland where such attitudes were normal practice. At any rate, days later Sir Francis Drake arrived after plundering some Spanish galleons near Puerto Rico. Sir Ralph Lane and his men abandoned Roanoke and sailed home with Drake in 1586. But it left a sour taste in the Native American's mouths.

1586 trip.

A week later in 1586 Raleigh's relief ship under Sir Richard Grenville arrived with his supplies but found no one there. So they left fifteen men with a lot of provisions to stay at the abandoned fort. By December 1586 Grenville was back in Bideford, England.

1587 trip.

In May of 1587 Raleigh again sent 117 men, women, and children under the direction of John White, the artist who had come up in the world and had been appointed Governor of the Colony. White travelled with his daughter Eleanor, six months pregnant, and his son-in-law Ananias Dare, a London bricklayer.

When the settlers arrived they found only one of the fifteen men left at the fort. It looked like he had gone crabbing by the beach. They found his body full of arrows and he had been mutilated. The fort had been destroyed.

Raleigh had instructed his captains to settle the colonists 100 miles north in the Chesapeake Bay area where the deep-water anchoring was safer. It was a better base for privateers, and had local sources of copper and perhaps more. Roanoke was too shallow and dangerous to sail into. But the ship's Captain, Simon Fernandez, refused to take the colonists any further, simply dumping them at Roanoke. White, though Governor of the colony on land, had no jurisdiction over the ship. Likely Fernandez did this because he simply wanted to go privateering and make his fortune.

It was too late in the season to plant crops and the families were unaware how belligerent prior Englishmen had been toward the Native Americans. Also, many supplies had been damaged and food spoiled during unloading. A few weeks later one of the colonists was killed by a native.

John White had brought back to America Manteo, the Croatoan Chief who had travelled to England before in 1585, and he asked him to intermediate. Manteo told them that on August 6th they would meet and make peace with the natives. But the day came and went. White took this as a sign that the natives wanted war and burnt a native village killing two natives. He later found out these were friendly Roanoke natives. It took weeks to persuade the Croatoans that this was a mistake. The colonists rebuilt the fort, and at this time White's daughter Eleanor gave birth to a daughter Virginia Dare, the first English baby to be born in the New World.



Baptism of Virginia Dare.

It was at this point that the colonists asked White to return to England, either to get more supplies, or to get rid of White's belligerent ways, or both. White wrote in his journal that he did not want to leave. He agreed that while he was gone, if the colonists should decide to abandon the colony and relocate elsewhere, they would leave a sign of where they went with a cross above it.

White baptized Manteo as a Christian on Aug 13th, and announced that Manteo was Lord of the Croatoans and Roanokes. Manteo knew he could not control the Roanokes, so he simply left and returned to Croatoan (see map on page 167).

White left Roanoke on August 27th, 1587 leaving 87 men, 17 women, and 11 children including his granddaughter and daughter. Unfortunately, when he arrived in England he found they were preparing for the arrival of the Spanish Armada with 30,000 soldiers in 1588. The queen needed all the ships she could get to fight the Armada. She refused Sir Walter Raleigh's personal request for special dispensation for the Roanoke colony resupply ship. White tried to return to Roanoke but was wounded and captured by French pirates while en route. He managed to escape back to England. It was 1590 before he would sail again.



White points to stockade with CROATOAN 1590.

1590 trip.

On March 20th, 1590 White left in a convoy of three ships under Captain Abraham Cooke, and Captain Edward Spicer from Plymouth. When White arrived August 17th at Roanoke he found the fort gone and the word CROATOAN on a post, and the letters CRO on a tree. The houses had been disassembled but there was no evidence of violence. They also found five chests of books and papers hidden in the woods, suggesting the settlers were planning on returning. Croatoan was likely on modern-day Hatteras Island.

While they had been sailing past Croatoan, White had seen large fires burning and smoking suggesting that the settlers were trying to signal him, so White wanted to return south to Croatoan. The ships, the privateers Moonlight and Hopewell,

had been reluctant to take him in the first place. But the ships tried travelling south, only to be driven further and further north by storms. They then refused to try further. White returned to England. He then moved to Cork, and drew the following map. He died three years later in 1593.



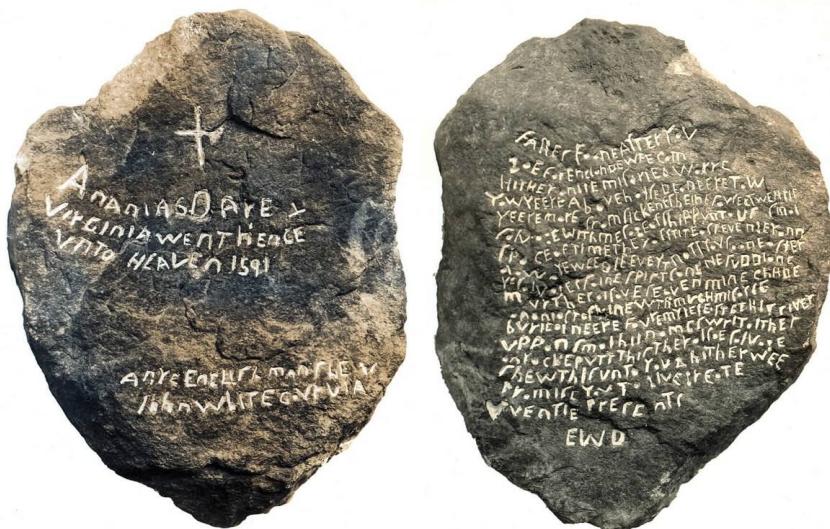
John White's Watercolor map of the area "La Virginea pars"

From 1590 to 1607 no more official attempts were made to find the colonists, just inquisitive privateering stops. In 1607 another group of settlers disembarked at Jamestown. They found the deeds of the Roanoke colonists had lived on and that the natives became belligerent towards them. What happened to the "Lost Colony of Roanoke" was discussed: perhaps the Spanish massacred them all in return for the English privateering away so much of their gold, but that would not explain why all the houses had been disassembled.

William Strachey, a writer who went to Jamestown in 1609-1611, becoming the secretary of the Jamestown colony, was asked by the British government to document any native stories of what may have happened to the Roanoke colonists. Both he and Captain Smith, the Jamestown Governor 1608-1609, said they heard a story that colonists had survived and were living with the Chesapeake natives but were all killed in a battle.

In 1884, fifty-four Croatoans petitioned Congress for aid saying they were descendants of the "Lost Colony of Roanoke". Unfortunately, DNA testing was not around back then. But it is well known that Native Americans frequently assimilated captives into their own tribes, especially women and children. No bones have ever been found at Roanoke, suggesting that the colonists left voluntarily. But although many English could have been assimilated into the Croatoan tribe, the tribe was not big enough to take all 117 people.

In 1937, a motorist driving through North Carolina's coast apparently found a 21 lb. stone engraved with writing, which he took to Emory University. The stone passed to Brenau University in Gainsville, Georgia, who advertised they would pay a reward for any other stones found. This stone was signed EWD for Eleanor White Dare. Multiple other stones were presented to Brenau University but some or all of them may well have been hoaxes.



The original Dare Stone from Brenau University.

[Side 1]:

Ananias Dare &
Virginia Went Hence
Unto Heaven 1591
Anye Englishman Shew
John White Govr Via

[Side 2]:

Father Soone After You
Goe for England Wee Cam
Hither / Onlie Misarie & Warre
Tow Yeere / Above Halfe Deade ere Tow
Yeere More From Sickenes Beine Foure & Twentie /
Salvage with Message of Shipp Unto Us / Smal
Space of Time they Affrite of Revenge Rann
Al Awaye / Wee Bleve it Nott You / Soone After
Ye Salvages Faine Spirits Angrie / Suddaine
Murther Al Save Seaven / Mine Childe /
Ananais to Slaine wth Much Misarie /
Burie Al Neere Foure Myles Easte This River
Uppon Small Hil / Names Writ Al Ther
On Rocke / Putt This Ther Alsoe / Salvage
Shew This Unto You & Hither Wee
Promise You to Give Greate
Plentie Presents
EWD

Digs on Croatoan (today called Hatteras island) in 1998 by East Carolina University archeologist David Phelps uncovered what a local jeweler said was an 18-carat gold signet ring. The jeweler, Frank Riddick, years later said it was just a verbal opinion, and he had not tested it. This ring had a prancing lion (lion passant) on it, and a British heraldry expert linked it with the Kendall family. One Kendall visited with the 1585 trip, and another with Drake when he picked up the colony in 1586. Archeologist Charles Ewen had the ring tested by X-ray fluorescence showing it to be brass, not gold. North Carolina state conservator Erik Farell pronounced it more likely that the ring was just a common European trade good from 100 years later.

Bristol University's Mark Horton disagreed with Farell's pronouncement that the ring was 100 years later, saying the ring could still be from 1580s. Further, he commented on how the Croatoans became quite technologically sophisticated unlike other local tribes. By the 1650s they made their own lead shot, and used guns to shoot deer and birds, whereas previously they had eaten mainly seafood. This technological sophistication hints at earlier European influence suggesting assimilated colonists. A stretch maybe, but interesting nevertheless.

In 2012, the “First Colony Foundation” (FCF), historians and archeologists researching Roanoke, submitted the White map to the British Museum for analysis. The museum analyzed two small repairs, one over the area of Merry Hill. X-ray spectroscopy and other imaging techniques showed that under the repair was a four pointed red and blue star the shape of a fort. Additionally, over the repair was a vague outline of a fortified town, possibly invisible ink. Perhaps White did not want the map to get into the wrong hands, and only wanted his friends like Raleigh to be able to locate the fort. White also made a reference to another site 50 miles from Roanoke. Interestingly both Cape Creek on Croatoan and Merry Hill are roughly 50 miles from Roanoke (see map on page 167).

Remote sensing and fieldwork at Merry Hill has not shown any fort, but excavations of this site under archeologist Nicholas Lucketti of FCF have shown unusually high concentrations of Surrey-Hampshire Border ware pottery, which was also found on Roanoke Island and at Jamestown. Border ware stopped being imported to America after the Virginia Company dissolved in 1624. Also found were a hook to stretch hides, a buckle, early gun flintlocks, and a food storage jar called a baluster. The locale was labelled Site X. Thus a reasonable supposition is that some of the colonists settled at Merry Hill. Ground penetrating radar (GPR) surveys have been done by Malcom LeCompte of Elizabeth City State University, but have not shown definitive evidence of a fort as yet.

Sparked by the 1998 dig, archeologist Mark Horton from Bristol University, U.K., started a dig in 2015. He found European objects on Croatoan including a 1500s sword hilt from England, a slate, late 1500s gun hardware, an iron bar, and large copper ingot. But many of the objects were mixed in with objects from 1670-1720. No Border ware was found. The objects were at Cape Creek which is at the southern end of Hatteras Island adjacent to Cape Hatteras, the elbow that sticks out into the sea. Of course, finding any object does not mean the colonists assimilated, but certainly could mean that they visited the island.

One hundred and seventeen people were too much for any of the local tribes to take on, so the tribe may have realized this and split up. We also know that the 1585 settlement soldiers had been told to break up into smaller groups if disaster struck. It is possible the 1587 group was told the same.

The Roanoke and Croatoan tribes were mostly peaceful, but the Secotan tribe were more hostile. Thus colonists may have left Roanoke because the Secotans, who dominated the Roanokes, would have killed them.

In summary it is most likely that some of the colonists assimilated into the Croatoan tribe where they would be able to keep a look out for ships. Some may have gone to the mainland at Merry Hill. Many likely died from starvation, disease or native attacks. Possibly others went further north to the Chesapeake Bay area and were possibly later massacred by the Powhatan tribe in the area.

The poor families persuaded to emigrate in 1587 to what was promoted as a paradise had been sold a bill of goods, and had not been told about experiences of

previous expeditions. It must have been truly devastating and terrifying for them when they realized what they were in for.

The “Lost Colony of Roanoke” is a mystery subject ripe for speculation. But archeology may still guide us to a more accurate assessment of what happened.

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By Nicholas Hilliard (called) (1547 - 1619)Details of artist on Google Art Project - VgG8ronTPh8jDg at Google Cultural Institute maximum zoom level, Public Domain,
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US COMMEMORATIVE \$ 1/2, SAN FRANCISCO OAKLAND BAY BRIDGE 1936 S. GRIZZLY BEAR / BRIDGE 30.6MM, 12.5 GRAMS UNC

1445

14 Historical Coins – CC 40

San Francisco Oakland Bay Bridge 1936

Background

San Francisco was ideally located during the gold rush, but with the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 rail traffic from the east terminated on the east side of San Francisco Bay in Oakland. San Francisco was in danger of being cut off from transportation routes. Periodically the possibility of a bridge from San Francisco to Oakland was discussed, but it was too expensive and too daunting an engineering prospect. Finally, Charles Purcell, one of the most distinguished civil engineers of the century, designed the bridge and was chief engineer during its construction. The American Society of Civil Engineers in 1955 selected the Bay Bridge as one of the seven civil engineering wonders of America. When it opened it was the largest bridge in the world. The San Francisco Oakland Bay Bridge should not be confused with the Golden Gate Bridge, please see the map on the next page of the five bridges in the Bay area.

The coin.

The obverse shows a grizzly bear in three-quarter profile, standing on ground which acts as an exergual line beneath which is the inscription LIBERTY. By the bear's right paw is a small S for the San Francisco Mint. In the right field is a JS monogram for the designer Jacques Schnier. In the left field is the inscription IN GOD WE TRUST. Below is the legend * HALF DOLLAR ***. The four stars we are told have no symbolic significance, and are simply decorative. Above is the legend UNITED • STATES • OF • AMERICA.

The reverse shows the Bay Bridge starting at the San Francisco Ferry Building with its famous tower on the embarcadero. The bridge runs to Yerba Buena Island and thence to Oakland and Berkley, sculpted as cross hatching, with the Oakland and Berkley hills behind in the east. The bay is shown as parallel wavy lines, and two ships sail in the water. The whole effect is art deco-like.

Introducing the coin.

The original bill authorizing a commemorative coin cited "completion of the bridges in the San Francisco Bay Area". On June 26th, 1936 Congress authorized not more than 200,000 coins (interestingly the bridge took around 200,000 tons of steel to make). But this time Congress wrote only: "San Francisco – Oakland Bay Bridge". Shortly after, the San Francisco Oakland Bay Bridge Celebration Coin Committee said they only wanted 100,000 minted.

They contacted sculptor Jacques Schnier (1898 – 1988). He was born in Romania and had immigrated to the US with his parents at the age of five. He graduated in 1920 from Stanford University with an engineering degree, but preferred city planning. While doing a required architecture course in art, he became enamored with art. He spent his life as a sculptor and amateur psychoanalyst. He was a professor at Berkley for thirty years in the architecture department later becoming a professor of art.

On July 31st, the Commission on Fine Art sculptor member, Lee Lawrie, inspected Schnier's photographs, and suggested larger letters. In September, again inspecting the photographs, Lawrie told him to rework the snout of the grizzly bear. He even enclosed prints with his return letter, to show Schnier how to sculpt it. Also the motto IN GOD WE TRUST was located by the bear's rear end, and the Lawrie advised him to place it elsewhere!

Schnier struggled with all the required legends, and finally Frank Havenner, Chairman of the San Francisco Citizen's Celebration Committee, pointed out that other commemorative coins had omitted various required legends, and asked the Mint Director, Miss Mary O'Reilly, if they could omit E PLURIBUS UNUM from beside the bear's right front leg and move IN GOD WE TRUST there. She replied yes!

Schnier supposedly sculpted the bear based on a grizzly named Monarch II which had been kept in a cage for 26 years at the Golden Gate Park. Critics objected saying a caged animal was an unfit symbol for liberty. Schnier said he also used bears in the San Francisco and Oakland zoos as models. He could hardly be expected to sit out in the wild hoping a grizzly might pass by and pose! Beside the grizzly was the California symbol appearing on the first California flag. The California grizzly is a now extinct sub-species of the North American brown bear.



Monarch, a California Grizzly Bear.

On November 4th, 1936, the San Francisco Mint struck 100,055 coins (55 for assay). The San Francisco Clearing House Association sold them for \$1.50 at the drive up booths by the Bay Bridge entrance, and also by mail. On November 12-14th the bridge opened, with accompanying celebrations.

On the reverse Schnier shows Yerba Buena Island projecting only north, though in reality it projects both north and south. I think Schnier was well aware of this and was not trying for accurate geography, but rather for artistic effect. Three years later in 1939 an artificial island called Treasure Island was built for the

Golden Gate Exposition, but of course in 1936 it did not exist. Cornelius Vermeule (see references) praises the coin saying “so bold it deserves praise for the aesthetic excitement it generates and its artistic success”.



GOLDEN GATE INTERNATIONAL EXPO 1939-40 ON TREASURE ISLAND. PIECE 8/INSCR. HK-485; 25.32 GRAMS, 40.44MM AU

2691

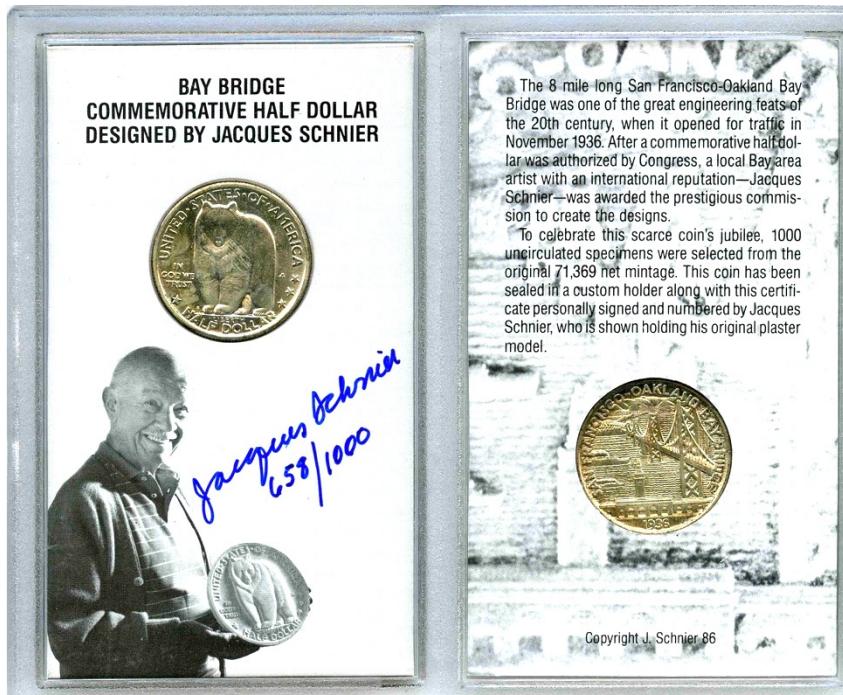
Golden Gate International Expo 1939-40. A World's Fair celebrating Golden Gate and Oakland bridges. Held on "Treasure Island" which was an artificial island attached to Yerba Buena Island by a causeway. It opened Feb - Oct 1939 and May - Sept 1940.

Yerba Buena means good herb in Spanish and is the name of a mint family plant. The specific species it refers to varies from place to place. It is often used for herbal teas. Yerba Buena Island was named after the town of Yerba Buena, named after the mint plant common in the area. This was the old name of San Francisco.



Yerba Buena Island. Artificial Treasure Island connected by causeway. North is right.

In 1980 Schnier autographed 1,000 cards for \$5 each picturing himself holding his plaster sculpture of the bear, with a cut-out opening for the coin. These were sold with coins which would now grade AU55 to MS 63, in a 1980 promotion:



Schnier autograph card. Image courtesy of Heritage Auctions (HA.com)



Five Bridges of the San Francisco Bay Area

Building the Bridge.

The San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge is usually called the Bay Bridge by locals. As mentioned, it is often confused with the Golden Gate Bridge which stretches from San Francisco to Sausalito. Construction on the Golden Gate also started in 1933. Many people also think the coin depicts the Golden Gate bridge not the Bay Bridge. There are five bridges that connect opposite sides of the Bay.

Bridge construction started July 9th, 1933. It was to stretch 4½ miles to Yerba Buena Island and another 4 miles east to Oakland. The length over water was 4½ miles. The bridge took 200,000 tons of steel, 70,815 miles of cable (which was 28¾" wide with 17,464 strands), and one million cubic yards of concrete, all at a cost of \$77.2 million (approximately \$1.5 billion today).

The western section involved a single concrete anchorage half way between San Francisco and Yerba Buena island with two suspension towers on each side.

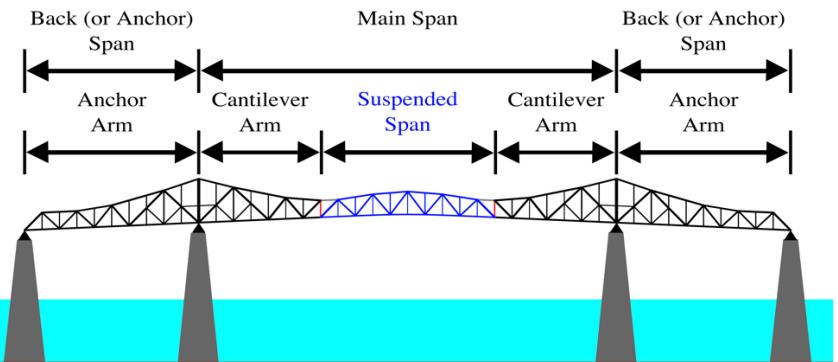


Western part of Bay Bridge (suspension) San Francisco left to Yerba Buena right, showing a central concrete anchorage and two suspension towers left and one right.



Yerba Buena Island during Bay Bridge construction 1933-6. View from Yerba Buena to SF.

The Eastern section was a double cantilever with truss causeway, from Yerba Buena island to Oakland. A causeway is like a viaduct – serial supports in the seabed with short spans.



Example of cantilever bridge showing anchor arm, cantilever arm and suspended span.



Eastern part of Bay Bridge (cantilever and causeway) from Yerba Buena to Oakland.

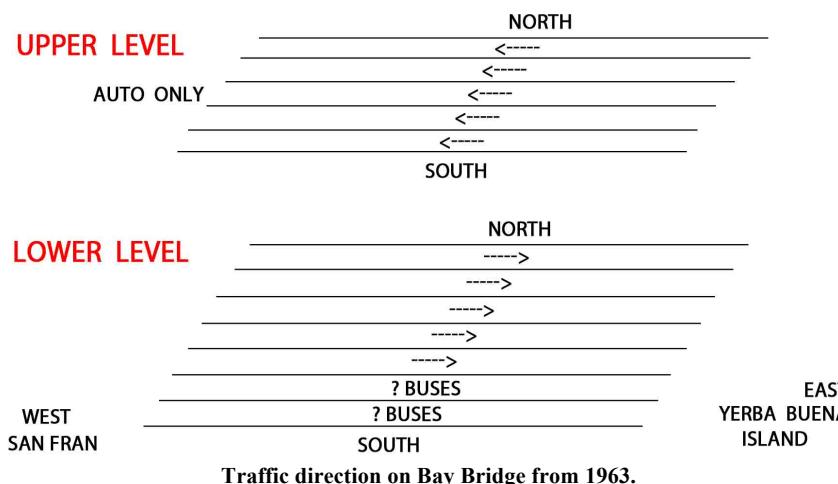
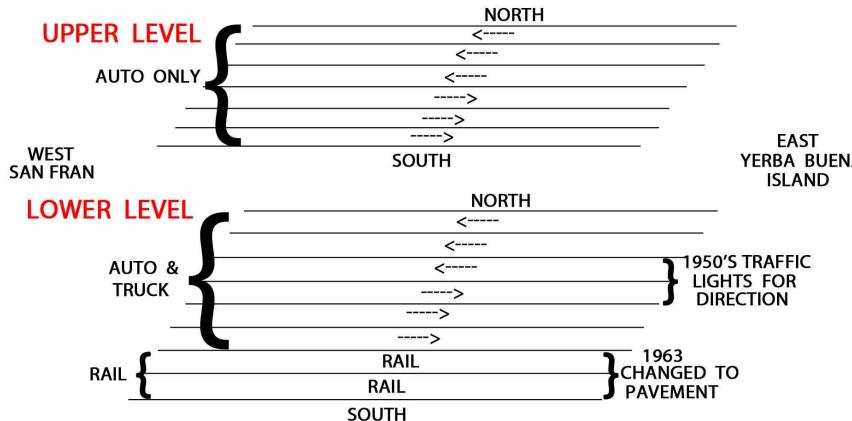
In the center was Yerba Buena Island which had a mountain, necessitating a 540' tunnel which is still the largest bore tunnel in the world, 76 feet wide and 58 feet high.

The Bay Bridge opened on November 12th, 1936 with President Herbert Hoover, and US Senator William McAdoo of California present. McAdoo was Secretary of the Treasury under Woodrow Wilson from 1913 to 1918, when his signature appeared on US currency. The bridge was blessed before the opening by Cardinal Pacelli, and later by Pope Pius XII, suggesting a significant Roman Catholic

presence in the area. My family live near Stonington, Connecticut. There are many Portuguese there, and each year the priests bless the fishermen who go out to fish. Fishing is a very risky occupation and the blessing certainly gives succor. But in its time the bridge was an amazing engineering project, so the blessings today might be more equivalent to the Pope blessing Google or Tesla!

To repay the \$72 million construction costs bonds were issued at 4.75% interest to be paid for by tolls. The San Francisco ferry had operated from between San Francisco and Oakland from 1851 with a fare of \$1 per person or animal. As soon as the bridge opened the toll was set at 65¢, later it dropped to 50¢, and later still 25¢ each way, to compete with the ferry and pay off the bonds. Auto tolls are now \$2.50 to \$7 depending on carpooling and time of day. All five San Francisco Bay bridges use a toll only in one direction to avoid congestion. For the Bay Bridge this toll is paid on the Oakland side of the bridge.

The upper and lower deck lanes were arranged as follows:



In 1989, a 6.9 Richter scale earthquake on a section of the San Andreas Fault, caused a fifty-foot section of the upper deck to collapse onto the lower deck. After this the western section of the bridge was rebuilt.

The western section was retrofitted with new high strength tension control nuts and bolts, substituting for the previous soft hot steel rivets. Also beams were reconstructed. The concrete supports were also drilled in order to place a network of rods and beams in and around the concrete in case of earthquakes.

The eastern section in 2002 was replaced because a retrofit would have cost more than a new bridge. Using a different route, they constructed a single arch suspension bridge on Yerba Buena Island leading to a long viaduct on the Oakland side. This opened in 2013. The original estimate was \$250 million. The final cost was \$6.5 billion – talk about cost over-runs! The new eastern bridge has a single deck. They completed demolition of the old eastern bridge in 2017. Today we take road bridges for granted but the cost is often enormous.

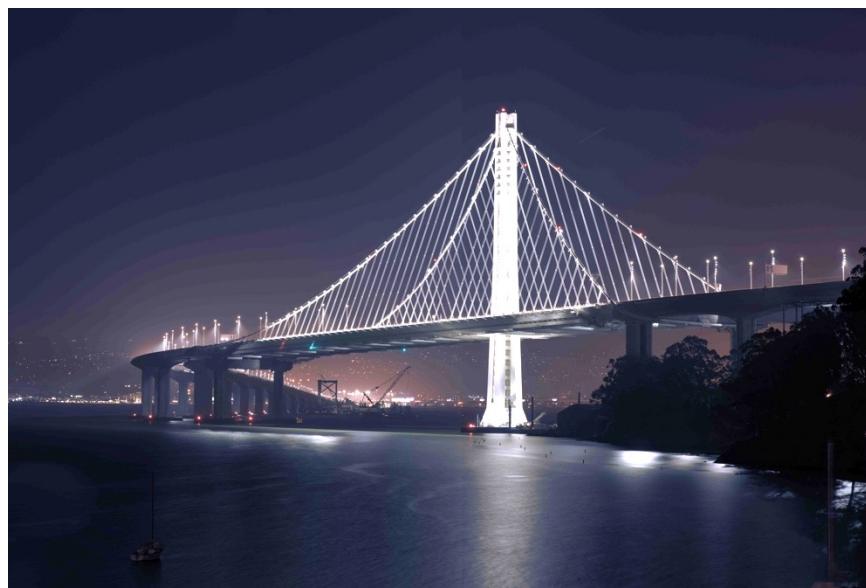


Bay Bridge west side, showing concrete anchorage and two suspension towers each side. View looking from San Francisco.



Bay Bridge west side looking from Yerba Buena to San Francisco.

In 1986, lights were added for the fiftieth anniversary of the bridge's completion. In 2013 Leo Villareal designed an art installation for two years with LEDs. In 2016 permanent LEDs were installed (on the outside not the inside so as not distract drivers), and it certainly looks spectacular like a work of art. The electricity costs only \$15 a night! Daily traffic is a quarter of a million vehicles.



View of new eastern Bay Bridge from Yerba Buena to Oakland with LED lights. Note single suspension tower near Yerba Buena Island leading to double cantilever and truss causeway.



West side of Bay Bridge lit at night, showing central concrete anchorage and two suspension towers on each side.

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US COMMEMORATIVE \$ 1/2, TEXAS CENTENNIAL 1934 EAGLE / WINGED VICTORY 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS UNC

1065

14 Historical Coins – CC 22

Texas Independence Centennial 1934

Background

The American Legion Texas Centennial Committee planned the Texas Centennial Exposition for 1936 at Fair Park in Dallas, Texas. The Fair was to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the independence of the state of Texas in 1836. 6.2 million visitors came, and it cost \$25 million. Obviously the Committee wanted a coin with large mintages to help pay for it.

The coin.

The obverse shows an eagle facing left, standing on an oak sprig, its wings almost folded, superimposed on a five-pointed star, emblematic of the Republic of Texas – the Lone Star state. Inscribed on the left is E PLURIBUS UNUM, and on the right IN GOD WE TRUST. The legend above reads UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. It is hyphenated, God knows why! Below is the date and *** HALF DOLLAR ***, the six stars presumably symbolize the six flags of Texas.

To call the reverse overcrowded is an understatement! Winged Victory, wearing a liberty cap, is half kneeling holding an olive branch in her right hand while her left arm rests on the Alamo. To the right of the Alamo is a PC monogram for Pompeo Coppini, the sculptor, and below the Alamo is 1836 – 1936. For an ordinary coin this would be enough. But wait there's more!

Above, and between Victory's wings are six flags with a scroll over the flags with the word LIBERTY. The legend above reads, TEXAS INDEPENDENCE CENTENNIAL, and below reads, REMEMBER THE ALAMO (the battle cry of the Texans at the battle of San Jacinto when the Texas General Sam Houston routed the army of Mexican General Santa Anna).

But wait! There's even more!! Two medallions! The one to the left is of General (later President of the Republic of Texas) Sam Houston with a legend stating his name. The one to the right is Stephen Austin (who initiated the American colonization of Texas starting in 1824) with a legend stating his name.

Most artists find the reverse filled to capacity, but Cornelius Vermeule (see references) opined "the coin has one of the greatest of the designs in the commemorative series". Also Anthony Swiatek, a commemorative specialist, calls it one of his favorites. I find it pleasing but too busy to be considered great art on a coin.

Introducing the coin.

President Herbert Hoover and Secretary of the Treasury Andrew Mellon had been against commemorative coins. But when President Franklin Roosevelt replaced Hoover in March 1933, all those promoters, numismatists and exhibition organizers started gearing up. In the 41 years between 1892 and 1933 there were only 20 silver commemoratives. Then the deluge started! In 1934 three, in 1935 five, and in 1936 sixteen silver commemoratives – 24 in three years. Congress got very skittish about them in 1937 because of the abuses of the program. So from 1937 to 1954, for 17 years only six commemoratives were authorized. Then the program ended until 1982 when the modern commemorative era started.

Rep. William Doddridge McFarland (D-TX) cajoled and horse-traded till he got the bill passed on June 15, 1933, authorizing 1½ million Texas commemorative half dollars! He promised the money would be spent on a memorial building.

In May 1936 the Centennial Committee immediately approved Pompeo Coppini's very rough models, one suspects because they had already told him exactly what to do. Actually the plasters looked pretty awful. Naturally, when Coppini and McFarland took them to the Commission of Fine Arts, sculptor member Lee Lawrie disapproved of them. Coppini may have been a good sculptor but knew nothing about coin designs. So Rep. McFarlane simply instructed CFA members to approve it! Lawrie then had to guide Coppini extensively to rework the plasters, which the Commission finally approved June 25th 1934.

The plasters were sent to the Medallic Art Company for their reducing lathe to make dies. The dies were sent to the Philadelphia Mint who struck 304,000 coins in October and November 1934. The Centennial Committee then asked for more with a 1935 date. The mint refused until the 1934 coins had been paid for. Naturally the Committee could not sell them all so returned 143,650 for remelting. No wonder Hoover and Mellon disliked the program!

The committee sold the 1934 coins for \$1. They then asked for 30,000 PDS sets i.e. 90,000 coins with a D mint mark for Denver, an S mint mark for San Francisco and no mint mark for Philadelphia. They sold these for \$4.50 a set (\$1.50 each). In 1936 (the actual anniversary) they asked for 10,000 PDS sets.

Again in 1937 they asked for 8,000 PDS sets. Since the fair had closed in November 1936, they were obviously milking people for money with the 1937 sets. Even then, they were still returning coins each year for re-melting. In 1938 they asked yet again for 5,000 PDS sets which they sold at \$6 a set (\$2 a coin). Hundreds of banks in Texas also helped to sell the coins. In 1937 the Committee transferred all unsold coins to the Texas Memorial Museum Centennial Coin Committee in Austin where a memorial was built on the University of Texas campus.



The final Texas Memorial Museum on University of Texas campus in Austin.

The Texas Centennial Exposition.

This ran from June 6th, to November 29th, 1936 at Fair Park in Dallas. Over fifty buildings were made for the exposition mainly in the art deco style. Many still stand today. It was held at Dallas because Dallas contributed \$7.8 million.



The Cotton Bowl built for the 1936 Texas Centennial Expo.

It had an historical pageant of 400 years of Texas history, a Hall of Negro Life, the Texas Centennial Olympics at the Cotton Bowl (not to be confused with the international Olympics in Berlin in 1936), and a production of Macbeth, directed by Orson Welles with an all-black cast. President Roosevelt visited. Gene Autry, the singing cowboy, acted in a silent B movie called "The Big Show" at the park in 1936. According to YouTube the plot is about a "singing cowboy who confuses two girls by being himself and his own stunt double at the Texas Centennial". It sounds convoluted, and for a silent movie and it must have been torture to follow. You can watch it on YouTube. I did. It is as boring as hell!



The Dallas Fair Park Esplanade, Art Deco built for the Texas Centennial Expo.



Another Art Deco Hall of State built for the Texas Centennial.

The tale of Texas's Independence.

Texas was originally part of Mexico, ruled by the Spanish since the 1500s. In 1684 for five years the French tried to control Texas. Mexico became independent in 1821. In 1836 Texas became independent, then joined the US as a state in 1845. In 1861 they seceded from the US and joined the Confederacy. These are the six flags (one each for Spain, France, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the United States and the Confederate States of America).

In 1812 - 1813 anti-Spanish people living in Texas rebelled against the Spanish Empire. Then in 1813, at the battle of Medina near San Antonio, Spanish royalists killed or executed 1,300 of the 1,400 Mexican Republican army and later executed another 300 officials. One of the Spanish royalists involved was Lt. Santa Anna.

After the 1810-1821 Mexican War of Independence, Texas became part of Mexico. At that time the Texas population was 3,500, mainly Tejanos (Hispanic Texans). As no Mexicans were moving as colonists into Texas to counter native Indians, Mexico allowed US immigrants in. Mexico issued a grant to Stephen Austin (later called the "Father of Texas") to bring American colonists into Texas. Under the 1824 Mexico Constitution, which defined the country as a federal republic, they combined the provinces of Texas and Coahuila to become the Mexican state of Coahuila y Tejas. However, by the late 1820s in Texas, a growing culture clash between North American immigrants and local Mexicans led to Mexico passing a law in 1830 prohibiting further American immigration. By 1834 there were an estimated 30,000 Anglo-American settlers (who called themselves Texians"), 8,000 Tejanos (Hispanic Texans) and 5,000 slaves.

In 1835, then Mexican President Santa Anna dissolved state legislatures and militias to make a more centralized national government. The governor of the state of Coahuila y Tejas refused to comply and was arrested. But Santa Anna knew that the US had designs on Texas so sent his brother-in-law Gen. Martin Perfecto de Cos with 500 soldiers to subdue Texas. Stephen Austin responded by calling Texian settlements to raise militias for self-defense.

Mexico had lent a cannon to the Town of Gonzalez (see map) for protection against Indians, but in 1835 felt it had been ill-advised so they sent 100 cavalrymen to repossess the cannon. One hundred and forty Texian volunteers attacked the cavalrymen, who retreated. Austin was then elected the Texian leader in Gonzalez.



General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna left in military regalia, right in old age.

General Cos left Goliad for San Antonio de Bexar (present day San Antonio) after finding out his cavalrymen had retreated. Texians, thinking he was still in Goliad, attacked (they heard he had \$500,000 in silver with him).



Mexican General Cos.

Texian Stephen Austin.



Mexican General Cos's march from Matamoros to Goliad then to Bexar.

The few Mexicans at Goliad surrendered. Tejano volunteers joined Austin going to San Antonio. Texians now controlled the gulf coast so Cos could not get reinforcements for his 650 troops.

Austin, with 450 Texians, besieged Bexar, but some Texians left when the winter came. Men poured into Texas from southeastern US. The US appointed Austin commissioner to the US offering US aid. Texian soldiers elected Edward Burleson as their commander. In December 1835 Burleson attacked San Antonio de Bexar and Cos withdrew to the old presidio called the Alamo in the east of San Antonio. But many of Cos's men deserted, so Cos surrendered, leaving no Mexican troops in Texas. The Texians now controlled the only two presidios (fortresses) in Texas – the Alamo at San Antonio and the presidio at Goliad.

In November 1835 Texas had a “Consultation” i.e. talks on the form of government Texas would take, though they did not declare independence. Delegates voted for a regular army under Sam Houston, a recent Texas immigrant from the US. He was also a secret agent of US President Andrew Jackson. The army attracted US citizens, particularly because they could get a Texas land bounty for military service.

Although leading citizens suggested an expedition to Matamoros in 1836 to attack Mexican troops the Texas council was split on this.

Meanwhile Santa Anna got wind of Texas' designs for independence, and financed an expedition to crush the Texians. He marched with 6,000 soldiers. But supplies were scarce, corruption was rampant, and pay was often not forthcoming. Santa Anna picked up his brother-in-law General Cos in Saltillo

and decided to approach San Antonio from the west. His prime motive was to restore the honor of his family and of Mexico. Many soldiers died on the march of dysentery, and of hypothermia from the freezing winter during February 1836.



General Santa Anna's march from Saltillo to San Antonio December 1835.

Less than 100 Texians had stayed at San Antonio at the Alamo under Col. James Neill. Houston sent Col. Jim Bowie with thirty men to decide whether to hold or abandon the presidio. Then Lt. Col. William Travis, a Texian hothead, was sent to the Alamo to support Neill. With insufficient manpower they should have abandoned the Alamo, but Travis wanted to hold it. So Travis and Bowie shared command while Neill left for more recruits.



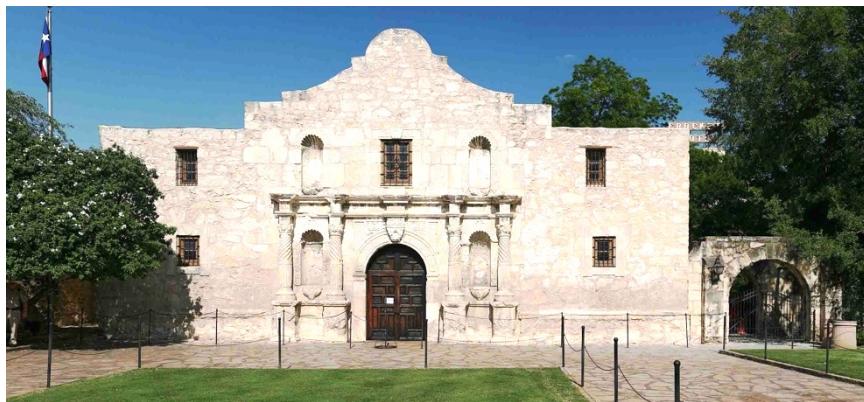
Lt. Col. and attorney William Travis



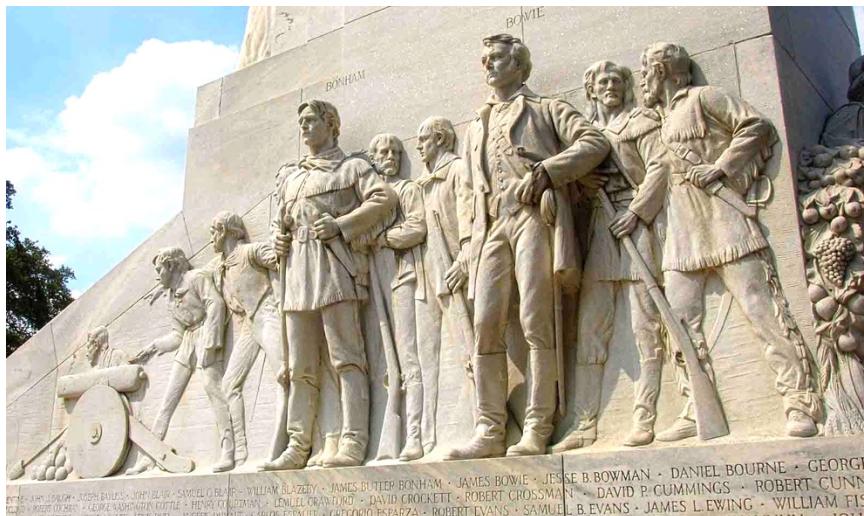
Col. Jim Bowie

On February 23rd, 1836, Santa Anna arrived with his army and besieged the Alamo. Bowie fell ill. So Travis as sole commander wrote an impassioned letter

vowing "victory or death" and begging for reinforcements. The letter circulated throughout the US and Europe. Santa Anna skirmished for several days.



The restored Alamo, at San Antonio.



Monument to people who fought at the Alamo showing Bonham and Bowie.



Other side of same monument adjacent to the Alamo, showing Travis & Crockett.

Finally, on March 6th, Santa Anna launched an all-out attack. Around 200 newly arrived Americans died and 400 to 600 Mexicans were killed or wounded. Santa Anna sent Susanna Dickinson, widow of Almaron Dickinson, who died in the battle, along with Travis' slave, Joe, to Gonzalez to tell Texans he had won.



General Urrea's march to Refugio then Goliad March 1836.

Meanwhile, Mexican General Urrea crossed into Texas from Matamoros with 1,000 troops on February 17th, 1836, to attack one of the armies composed of the recent American arrivals at Refugio (see map above). Only three Americans survived the battle. Texas Col. James Fannin, hearing of the debacle at Refugio, withdrew his forces into the presidio at Goliad. Finally, on March 19th, with Urrea's superior forces advancing on Goliad, Fannin decided to retreat from the Goliad presidio. Urrea's army trapped Fannin's forces who surrendered unconditionally. On March 27th, Gen. Urrea had the 390 captives shot. Only 27 people escaped.

On March 2nd, 1836 (four days after Travis' letter reached them) the Texas Convention declared Independence at the town of Washington on the Brazos River in Texas (see map above). Houston was put back in charge of the army and left the delegates to make a constitution, much of which was identical to that of the US.

Santa Anna then split up his army into three factions. Houston arrived at Gonzalez where there were 374 volunteers. He evacuated within hours realizing Mexicans were hot on his tail. Volunteers swelled the army to 1,400 which retreated 120

miles northeast to San Felipe (see map opposite), where they practiced military drills for two weeks and rested. Two cannons arrived from the US. Faced with superior numbers and a superior force, Houston had no real battle plan. His only hope was to bring Santa Anna to battle on his own terms.

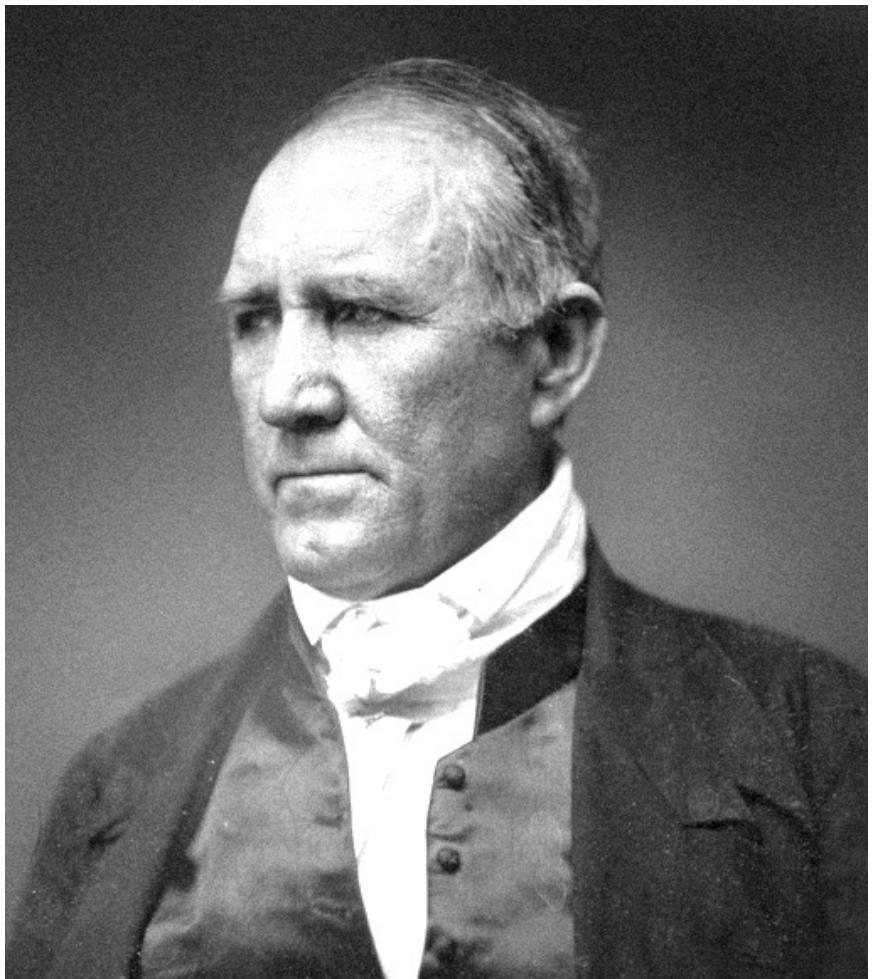


Houston's march to San Felipe then to San Jacinto, March and April 1836.

So he retreated eastwards across southeast Texas, waiting for the enemy to make a mistake. The US Secretary of State advised Houston to retreat to the Sabine River (see map above) because many more volunteers would stream in there from the US.

Santa Anna advanced on the town of Harrisburg to capture the government of Texas which had recently relocated there, but they escaped. Santa Anna then burned Harrisburg to the ground. Houston arrived in Harrisburg soon after Santa Anna and later met him at the nearby San Jacinto River (see map above). Santa Anna had 700 men in unfamiliar marshy ground, to Houston's 900 Texans in familiar territory.

Houston camped in the woods and Santa Anna camped 500 yards away on a plain with woods one side and a marsh and a lake on the other side. After a day of skirmishing on April 20th, 1836 Santa Anna fortified his camp. The next morning General Cos arrived with 540 men who had marched 24 hours straight and were exhausted. The Texans did nothing that morning, lulling Santa Anna into a false sense of security. Santa Anna therefore allowed his troops to siesta in the afternoon.



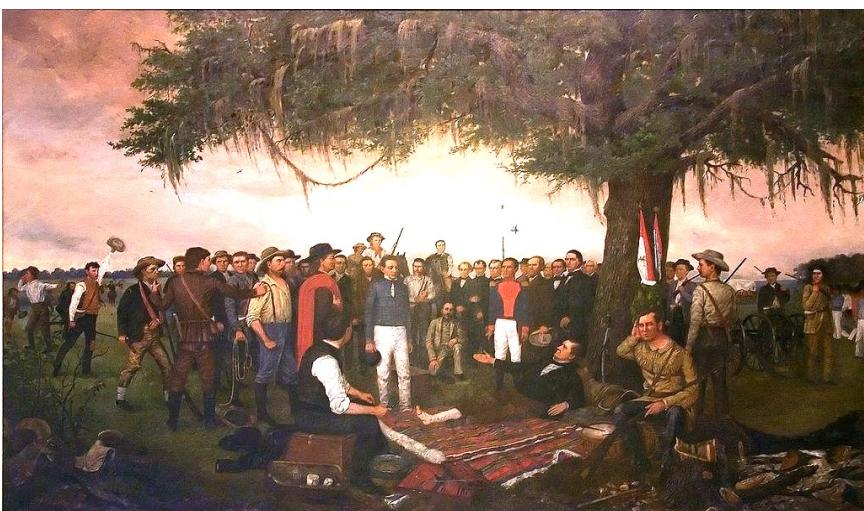
General Sam Houston.

Suddenly at 4.30 pm the Texans attacked with cannon. The Mexicans, totally unprepared, fled. Texian riflemen picked them off. 650 Mexicans were killed to the Texans nine. Houston had two horses shot from under him and was himself shot in the ankle. 300 more Mexicans were captured. Santa Anna was found hiding. He negotiated a treaty allowing Texas independence.

Emily West was a free mulatto lady from Connecticut, who lived in Texas from 1835. She was apparently sent to Santa Anna's tent on the day of the Battle of San Jacinto. Some believed she was a Texian spy, and had been sent to keep Santa Anna "occupied" (to use a euphemism) during the Texans' attack. There is little historical evidence to substantiate this story. However, in the 1900s a song from 1850s "The Yellow Rose of Texas" identified the "Yellow Rose" as Emily West. As so often happens the story's emotional pull was more powerful than the truth.



Painting of Battle of San Jacinto by Henry Arthur McArdle 1895.



Santa Anna surrendering to Gen. Sam Houston (lying with injured ankle).

Although 4,000 Mexican troops were still in Texas under Generals Urrea and Vicente Filisola, Santa Anna guaranteed they would leave Texas. Most Texans feared they would return, but that fear never materialized. On June 1st, 1836 Santa Anna boarded a ship bound for Mexico, but he was arrested on June 4th by insubordinate Texian soldiers before it set sail.

But Santa Anna lived to see another day, with an extraordinary succession of Presidencies, battles, and the loss of his leg by French grape shot in 1838. He buried his amputated leg at his Veracruz hacienda. But when he resumed the Presidency in 1842 he exhumed his shriveled, decomposing leg and paraded it in Mexico City, burying the leg with an astoundingly extravagant state funeral.

Despite a magnetic personality, Santa Anna was an unprincipled opportunist and incompetent in civil matters. It was Mexico's ill fortune to have him as president intermittently from 1833 to 1855 during which time Mexico lost half its land territory. In 1848, Mexico exiled Santa Anna. He went to Kingston, Jamaica, then to Columbia. In 1853, Mexican conservatives invited him back to be President. Imagine his exhilaration! He declared himself: "hero of the nation, General of Division, Grand Master of the National and Distinguished Order of Guadalupe, Grand Cross of the Royal and Distinguished Spanish Order of Carlos III, and President of the Mexican Republic".

But within two years Mexico exiled him again. He spent the rest of his life in Cuba, the US and Columbia. He loved to gamble especially on cockfights. He repeatedly tried to re-enter Mexico as a savior of whatever was politically expedient to regain power. But everyone in Mexico knew he was treacherous. While in the US in 1866, he unsuccessfully tried to raise money by issuing bonds with bogus properties he claimed to own in Mexico as collateral (see below). For twenty years Mexico had shut him out of politics. But, taking advantage of an amnesty in 1874, he returned to Mexico, impoverished, crippled and blind, until he died in 1876. He was however, buried with full military honors (minus his leg!).



Santa Anna's US issued bond to raise money based on bogus collateral.

Houston was voted President of the Texan Republic, serving two terms. In 1845, after nine years, Texas joined the United States as a state. Houston then served two terms as a US Senator from Texas. He then returned to Texas where he was elected Governor in 1859. While Governor, he opposed secession and tried to

keep Texas out of the Confederacy. He was forced out of office in 1861 and died in 1863.

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US COMMEMORATIVE \$ 1/2, VERMONT SESQUICENTENNIAL 1927. IRA ALLEN / CATAMOUNT 30.6MM, 12.5 GRAMS AU+

1289

14 Historical Coins – CC 19

Vermont Sesquicentennial 1927.

Background

The coin celebrates the 150th anniversary of Vermont's independence, and the Battle of Bennington in 1777, which was a turning point in the Revolutionary war leading to British General "Johnny" Burgoyne's defeat at Saratoga, New York, and leading to the entry of France on America's side.

The coin.

The obverse shows Ira Allen's bust facing right. The legend above reads: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. The legend below reads IRA ALLEN, FOUNDER OF VERMONT.

The reverse shows a "catamount" i.e. a mountain lion. This fills the coin's fields. The initials CK for Charles Keck, the sculptor, is between the hind legs of the mountain lion. The legend reads: BATTLE OF BENNINGTON. IN GOD WE TRUST above, and E PLURIBUS UNUM and HALF DOLLAR below. The inscriptions read 1777-1927 above the mountain lion, and AUG 16 to the left of the mountain lion.

This coin is the highest relief of all the classic commemoratives. It looks good!

Introducing the coin – what does a catamount have to do with Vermont?

Read on – and all shall be revealed! On February 24th, 1925 US Congress authorized 40,000 Vermont Sesquicentennial commemorative half dollars in the same bill as the California Diamond Jubilee and the Fort Vancouver commemorative half dollars. The Vermont Sesquicentennial Commission President, John Spargo, asked New York sculptor, Mr. Sherry Fry, to do Ira Allen's portrait on the obverse, and the Bennington Monument obelisk on the reverse.



Sculptor Fry's models for the Vermont Commemorative half dollar



Bennington Monument.

The models look more like a medal than a coin as it has lots of blank space. Fry had also done the Ira Allen statue at the University of Vermont which was widely acclaimed. Charles Moore, Chairman of the US Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) replied that the monument was from the 1812 war (which was wrong) and he seemed to feel the Allen bust was inferior. Moore also questioned the lettering.



Fry's statue of Ira Allen outside University of Vermont.



Catamount Tavern late 1800s.

The Vermont Sesquicentennial Commission President, John Spargo, corresponded with the CFA insisting that the Vermont Commission's choice of designs were good, and that US President Coolidge (a Vermonter) had personally attended the monument's dedication, and would want it on the coin. But the CFA still nixed the design. Another sculptor, Charles Keck (he sculpted the Lynchburg sesquicentennial commemorative half dollars and the 1915 Panama-Pacific gold commemorative coins) was then asked to do the models instead. He submitted a model with the Catamount Tavern on the reverse. The CFA did not like that either and suggested a catamount instead for "artistic reasons".

The catamount was the name of a pub frequented by the Green Mountain Boys (discussed below). It had a stuffed catamount on a pole outside, like an English pub sign. Keck made three reverses, one a trophy (flags, drum, swords, muskets), one a catamount on a rock with names of Battle participants, and one a walking catamount.

CFA approved only the walking catamount on June 17th, 1926, but still tried to get the "Founder of Vermont" removed (unsuccessfully). The final models were sent to Medallic Arts Company to prepare the dies for the Philadelphia Mint.

I would bet that well over 99% of Americans, if questioned why the reverse has a catamount, or even what a catamount was, would have absolutely no idea! The reason was the catamount was a rebus.

The concept of a rebus was far more familiar to people two hundred years ago than it is now. The word derives from the Latin phrase: "Non verbis, sed rebus", which being translated means "not by words, but by things" i.e. a pictorial symbol representing the word rather than a printed word, standing for the pub.

In January and February 1927 the Philadelphia Mint struck 40,034 half dollars (34 for assay). The Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Association distributed them by mail and through banks for \$1 each. Ultimately 11,892 were returned for melting.

The profits went to the Bennington Museum who distributed the money to various education institutions.



Catamount or mountain lion i.e. Puma concolor cougar.

The catamount (a shortened version of cat o'mountain) is the same as a mountain lion today. Others call it a cougar or puma. In Connecticut I have only heard it called a mountain lion. The Linnaean name is *Puma concolor* with 32 subspecies. It is the most widespread mammal in the Americas from the Canadian Yukon to the south Andes. The subspecies in North America is *Puma concolor cougar*. It is a solitary nocturnal carnivorous hunter. Standing two to three feet tall, it is the size of a lion. Males weigh 120 – 220 lbs. and females 60 – 140 lbs. It looks like a lion with a small head and long tail (see picture opposite).

Some have labelled the cat on the reverse a Vermont catamount, which it is clearly not. The Vermont catamount is a different species altogether called the Canadian lynx or *Felis lynx canadensis*. They have points on their ears, short tails, slant down to the front, and are cat size i.e. 18-24 lbs.



Vermont catamount or Canadian lynx i.e *Felis lynx canadensis*.

The tale of Vermont independence and the Battle of Bennington.

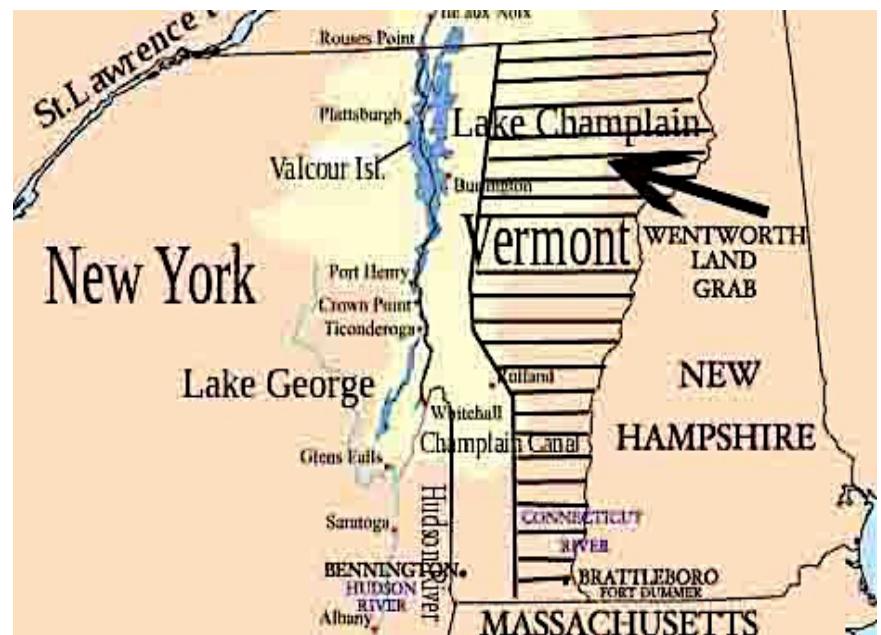
In 1609, Samuel de Champlain, from New France, discovered Lake Champlain. In 1724, the British erected the first permanent fort – Fort Drummer near Battleboro (see map on right). Benning Wentworth (after whom Bennington was named) was the New Hampshire British Governor at the time and in 1741 extended his state's border to 20 miles east of the Hudson River. New York Governor DeWitt Clinton said Wentworth had no authority to do this. Vermont and Massachusetts also objected saying Vermont was part of Massachusetts. Wentworth suggested the British crown settle the matter.

But the French and Indian war intervened in 1754. In 1759, the British captured Ticonderoga and Crown Point. The crown then decided in New York's favor i.e. the lands belonged to New York and not New Hampshire/Vermont.

Brothers Ethan Allen (1739-1789) and Ira Allen (1751-1814) were settlers on New Hampshire land in Vermont and speculated in land. They formed the Green Mountain boys to protect their lands. Vermont is French for green mountain – Vermont is mostly forest now but back then it was green and hilly.



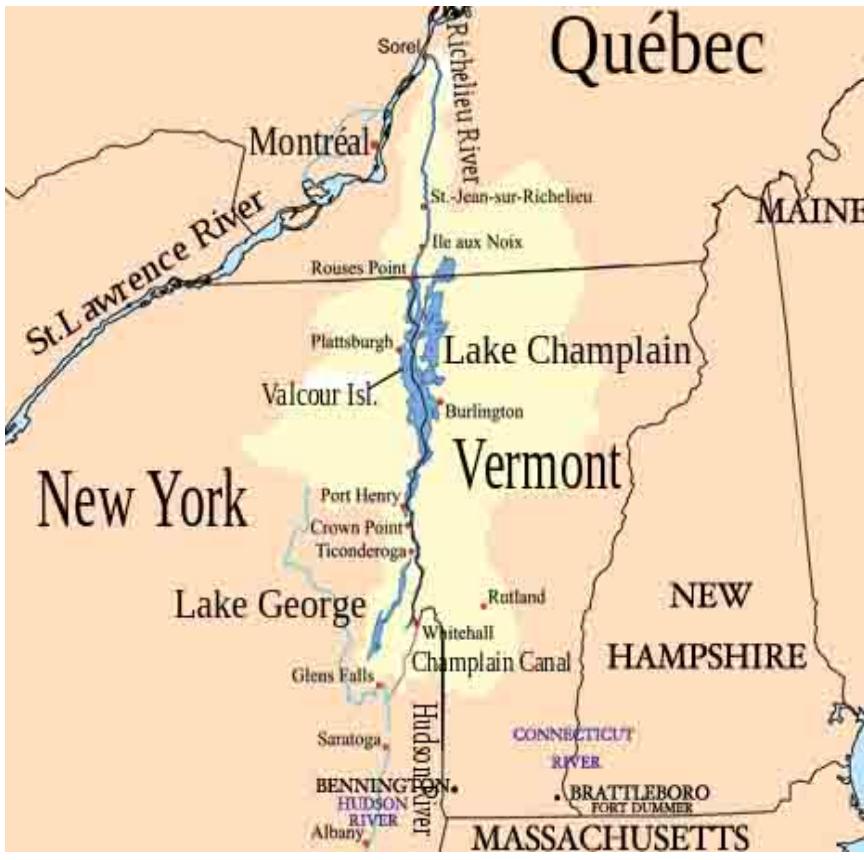
Left Benning Wentworth NH Governor. Right Sculptor Larkin Nead's Ethan Allen statue.



Wentworth Land Grab from New Hampshire to 20 miles East of NY / VT border.



Fort Ticonderoga on New York State side of Hudson.



Important colonial landmarks in Vermont.

Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain boys captured Fort Ticonderoga from the British in 1775 (see map and picture on left) and suggested a military expedition to Canada, but Allen's cousin Seth Warner was chosen instead to lead the expedition. Ethan tried to capture Montreal before all his soldiers got there and was himself captured by the British and imprisoned (he was later exchanged in 1778).

During 1775 - 1777 conventions held in Vermont (largely lead by Ira Allen) culminated on Jan 15th 1777 with a declaration of Vermont independence from the jurisdictions and land claims of British Quebec, and American New Hampshire and New York. At the time Ira Allen's brother, Ethan, was languishing in a British jail. Ethan was, according to Slabaugh (see reference) was "fiery and colorful... a man of great physical strength". After Ethan was exchanged for another prisoner in 1778 he returned to Vermont politics and business and wrote on transcendentalism. He died from a stroke at the age of 51.

Later on August 16th, 1777 the Green Mountain boys and New Hampshire militia defeated the British at the Battle of Bennington (see map on left) where the Continental army stores were kept. August 16th is a still a state holiday in Vermont, called Bennington Battle day.

In 1777, the British plan was for British General Burgoyne to travel south with 8,000 men to meet up with General Howe coming from New York City up the Hudson River valley, forming a giant pincer movement to cut off New England from the rest the American colonies. But General Howe disobeyed orders, and occupied Philadelphia instead, and never met up with Burgoyne.

Burgoyne was running short on supplies and heard of the Continental supply depot at Bennington, so he sent Lt. Col. Baum with 800 men to raid Bennington for supplies. Burgoyne incorrectly thought only 400 men defended Bennington.



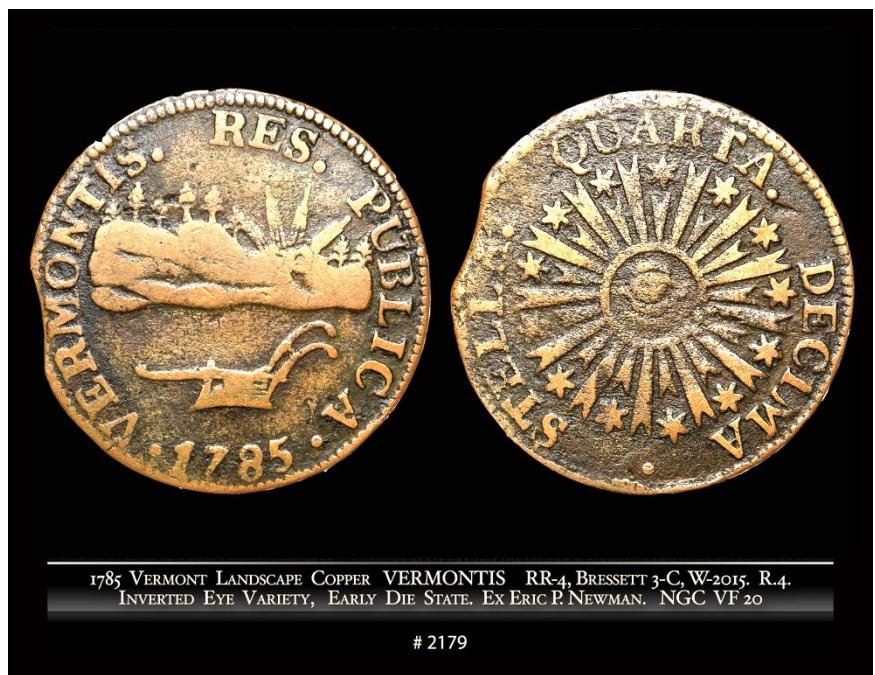
British General Burgoyne surrendering to Rebel General Horatio Gates.

A rebel force of 2,000 New Hampshire militia under General Stark, and 350 Green Mountain boys under Col. Warner were expecting them. Rain delayed Baum, and Stark encircled him taking many prisoners and killing Baum. A further 550 Hessians under British Lt. Col Breymann arrived to reinforce Baum.

But Breymann and his Hessians were too late and they lost even more men. Reinforcements had also arrived to help Stark and Warner drive off Burgoyne's soldiers. This was a strategic success because it reduced Burgoyne's army by 1,000 men, deprived him of desperately needed supplies and melted away Burgoyne's Indian support.

When Continental army General Horatio Gates met Burgoyne at Saratoga, he defeated the weakened Burgoyne. Saratoga was the first major rebel victory during the American Revolutionary War. France had been waiting for an opportunity to enter the war on America's side. And this was that opportunity.

Vermont asked to be the fourteenth state, but the Continental Congress refused because New York State had claims on their lands. Later, from 1785 to 1788 Vermont issued their own coins, on which the legend reads: STELLA QUARTA DECIMA (the fourteenth star i.e. 14th state on the flag). Vermont finally joined the Union as the 14th state in 1791 but had to pay New York \$30,000 to settle New York's claims to its land.



Ira Allen, a wealthy man, gifted \$4,000 to found the University of Vermont at Burlington, Vermont. A carpenter in 1790 made 75¢ for a day's work in New Hampshire, so working 6 days a week would have had to have worked 17 years to earn that amount of money. Ira Allen was the person who most of all was responsible for founding the state of Vermont.

A sorrowful postscript on Ira Allen: In 1795, he travelled to France to seek French army intervention to seize Canada in order to create an independent republic called United Columbia. He bought 20,000 muskets and 24 cannons but the British captured him and accused him of smuggling arms into Ireland. Allen was jailed in England. When he finally returned to Vermont in 1801 he was destitute and owed back taxes. To avoid debtor's prison, he escaped to Philadelphia where he eked out the remainder of his days in poverty, till death took him in 1814.

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US COMMEMORATIVE \$ 1/2, YORK COUNTY MAINE TERCENTENARY 1936. 1636 GARRISON / COUNTY SEAL 30.6MM, 12.5 GRAMS UNC

1347

14 Historical Coins – CC 35

York County Maine, Tercentennial 1936

Background

The Committee for Commemoration of the Founding of York County, Maine, asked Portland, Maine artist, Walter Rick, to design a coin presumably to support local celebrations. However, there is little internet evidence that York County held celebrations in 1936 for this more than obscure event.

The coin.

The obverse shows a stockaded Brown's Garrison on the Saco River, with the sun behind, and a horse with rider and three men in the foreground (the middle man grows out of the rider's hat)! The legend reads LIBERTY above in the sun's rays, and E PLURIBUS UNUM below. In a large ugly peripheral ring is the huge legend UNITED•STATES•OF•AMERICA, and *HALF DOLAR* below.

The reverse shows the seal of York County, Maine i.e. a cross within a shield and a pine tree in the first quarter. The inscription reads 1636 in the left field and 1936 in the right field. The legend reads: IN•GOD WE•TRUST. Again in a large ugly peripheral ring is the legend *YORK•COUNTY* above, and FIRST•COUNTY•IN•MAINE below.

Introduction of the somewhat obscure coin.

"The Committee for Commemoration of the Founding of York County, Maine" is a rather long name. If you want to call yourself something don't use an eleven-word name! It was also called by two other names: "The York County Commemorative Coin Commission", and "The York County Tercentenary Commemorative Coin Commission".

The Commission asked Walter Rich, a prominent wild-life watercolorist from Portland, Maine, to do the sketches. They told him to copy a woodcut sketch from a book called "*The Proprietors of Saco and a Brief Sketch of the Years Following the First Settlement of the Town, also a Little About an Old Bank in Saco, Maine*" by Frank C. Deering published in 1931. Again, in the 1930's a 28-word book title did not seem to bother anyone! The book was written for the York National Bank, which stood on the site of the previous Brown's Garrison stockade.

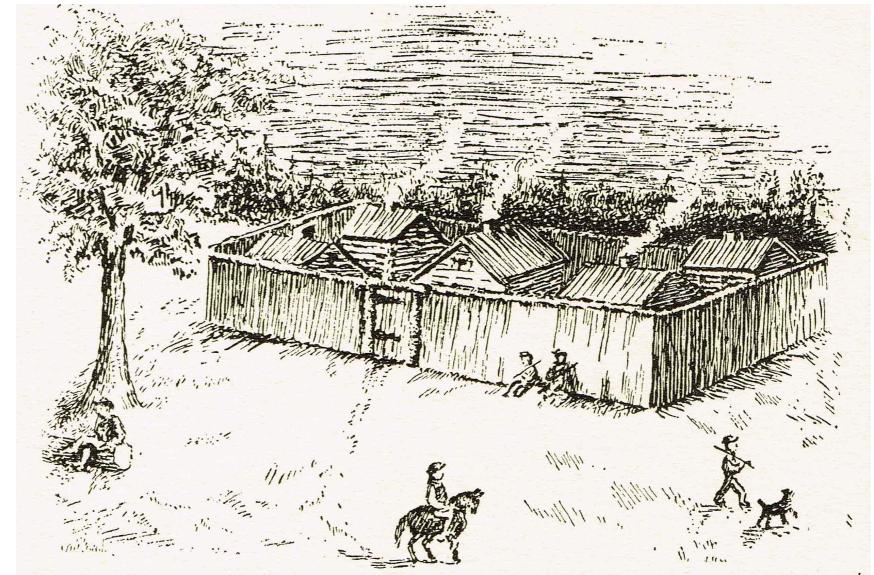
US Congress authorized 30,000 pieces on June 26th (the same day the Oakland Bay bridge coin was authorized). Rich was not a sculptor. Once he completed the sketch things moved like lightning. On July 17th the Committee of Fine Arts, (CFA) meeting in New York City, approved the design (except that they wanted the 1636 above the original shield on the reverse, omitted).

In just 29 days the sketches went to the G.S. Pacetti Company in Boston who made large bronze carvings (as Rich was not a sculptor). These were then sent to the Medallic Art Company in New York City to produce the die from a reducing lathe. The die was then sent to the Philadelphia Mint who struck the coins. And by August 15th they were on sale in Maine!

Walter P. Nichols was a Boston businessman and spent his summers in York County Maine. He was the secretary and treasurer of the Tercentenary Commission, and of the York National Bank. He was also a numismatist, who had a sense of fair play. He planned the distribution of the coin meticulously.



York County Seal, note top 1636 label was removed because CFA saw 1636 and 1936 already in left and right fields of reverse design.



Stockade and Block Houses on site of York National Bank.

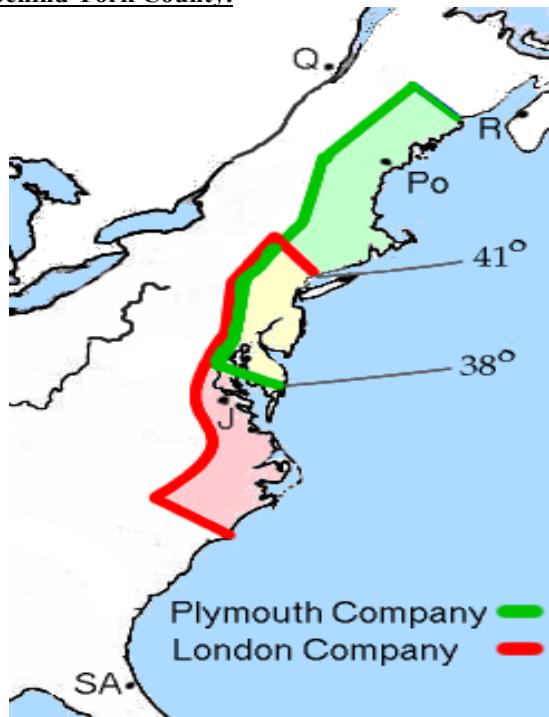
Although Congress authorized 30,000 coins Nichols only asked for 25,000 coins. So they minted 25,015 coins (15 for assay). Nichols reserved 10,000 for Maine residents which sold at \$1.50, and 15,000 were sold to other states at \$1.65. Ultimately 6,000 coins remained unsold at the end of 1936, so they were sold sporadically into the 1950s.

Nichols sent no coins for re-melting. This was a radical departure from previous abusive programs that asked the Mint to produce large numbers which never sold then large numbers of coins were sent back to the mint for re-melting. This was largely Nichols doing and certainly a tribute to his management.

It was believed by some that Congress, tiring of this unscrupulous scheming by organizations, might just approve no further commemoratives and that this might be the very last commemorative coin.

Cornelius Vermeule (see references) was unusually scathing about the coin and commented “few have deserved ashes and odium more than this half-dollar”. It “easily wins a grand prize for unimaginativeness (sic). The awkward lettering around the outer parts of the field on both sides dwarfs what passes for a design”. “The total performance is pedestrian to an extreme”. It seems Vermeule used Roger’s Thesaurus for as many critical synonyms as he could find to string together!

The History behind York County.



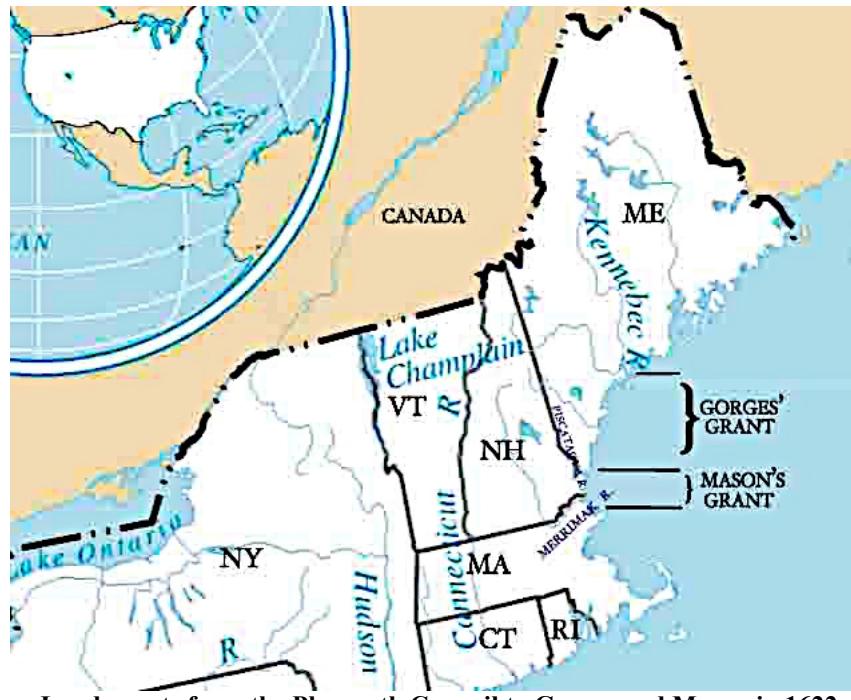
The overlapping land grants of Plymouth Company (north) and London Company (south). The Plymouth Company started near present day Washington DC, extending to present day Nova Scotia. Po means Popham Colony.

King James I of England (1603-1625) granted a patent to the Virginia Company, comprising two stock companies, the Virginia Company of London and the Virginia Company of Plymouth. The London and Plymouth grants overlapped. The London Company was the 34th to 41st parallel (approximately present-day Cape Fear to present-day Manhattan). The Plymouth Company of New England was the 38th to the 43rd parallel (approximately present-day Washington DC to present-day Nova Scotia).

It was the London Company that established the Jamestown settlement of 1607, and it was the Plymouth Company that established Popham colony in Maine.

Sir Ferdinando Gorges sent 120 colonists out in 1607 to Phippsburg on the Kennebec River mouth (see map below). This was called the Popham colony.

Half the colonists left in December 1607 for England because of dwindling supplies. The rest stayed. After one year, only one life had been lost, but the colonists bickered about their leaders. One faction favored George Popham; the other faction favored Raleigh Gilbert as leader. Together they built the first English ship in the New World, and sailed back in it in 1609. The ship was named Virginia, weighing 30 tons. The buildings of the Popham colony were excavated between 1994 and 2005.



Land grants from the Plymouth Council to Gorges and Mason in 1622.

In 1622 the Plymouth Council of New England, another group of English businessmen, granted a smaller patent to Sir Ferdinando Gorges and John Mason between the Merrimack River in Northern Massachusetts, and the Kennebec River in southern Maine (see map on previous page).



Note Saco and Biddeford on Saco River in York County, Maine.

In 1622, the Plymouth Council of New England, another group of English businessmen, granted a smaller patent to Sir Ferdinando Gorges and John Mason between the Merrimack River in Northern Massachusetts, and the Kennebec River in southern Maine (see map on previous page).

In 1629, Gorges and Mason split their grant at the Piscataqua River. Mason took the southern half which he called New Hampshire, and Gorges took the northern part which he called Maine (see map on previous page).

Gorges was a knighted army officer who felt North America should be settled, but never went there himself. He felt it should be like the English system of wealthy nobles controlling the lands worked by farmers. One of his agents, Capt. Christopher Levett, started a settlement he called York (Levett was born in York

England). He left some men in Saco, Maine in 1631. But Levett died on his voyage back to England. Some say the men were never heard of again.

Exactly what happened next varies in different accounts. Initially an unofficial court sat in Saco. The court became official in 1636 with a deputy-governor and six commissioners. Sir Ferdinando's nephew, William Gorges, was the first official Governor from 1636 to 1638 in Saco. Saco had previously been explored by Samuel Champlain in 1605 when he found a palisaded Indian village which was abandoned in 1616.

In 1638, Sir Ferdinando Gorges was Governor, but he never went there - his cousin Thomas Gorges was deputy Governor in his name. Where these settlers came from is difficult to fathom out. Presumably settlers could have come from Massachusetts Bay Colony, from Plymouth Colony, from England, some of the above, or all of the above. But by one account the men left by Levett in 1631 were "never heard of again".

In the 1650s the Massachusetts Bay Colony absorbed York County into Massachusetts. The town of Saco was incorporated in 1653, the same year as the incorporation of York County, Maine (see map opposite). Settlers in present-day Maine and New Hampshire chose to be part of Massachusetts until in 1680 when New Hampshire became a separate province. Unfortunately, Saco burnt in 1690 and reincorporated in 1718 as Biddeford. When Massachusetts adopted its state government in 1780, it created the District of Maine to manage its eastern territories. When Maine achieved statehood in 1820 all of the counties of the District of Maine became counties of Maine.

The early colonization of the Americas was fraught with risk. Many died during the trip across the Atlantic. The risk of living in North America, with Indian attacks, disease, starvation, loss of supplies, etc. was ever present.

On the whole colonists in the south in Virginia had tougher problems than those in the north. Much of this was due to more disease in the south, but some of it was related to unfriendly Indian attacks. The risk of being abandoned by lack of supply ships from England also loomed large.

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US COMMEMORATIVE \$ 1/2, BOOKER T. WASHINGTON MEMORIAL 1946 S. WASHINGTON / CABIN 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS UNC

67

CHAPTER SEVEN

5 Coins about people. CC49

Booker T. Washington 1946 - 1951

Background

Q. David Bowers (see references) says “a commemorative band wagon began to roll again in 1946”, with the Iowa’s Centennial commemorative half dollar. So the President of the Booker T. Washington (BTW) Memorial Commission, S.J. Phillips, pushed politicians, who themselves pushed a coin bill through Congress lest they be accused of racism (Booker T Washington was a prominent African American). On August 7th, 1946, Congress authorized both the Iowa and the BTW commemoratives. For the BTW coin Congress authorized 5 million coins, allowing multiple mints and dates, despite having vowed in 1937 and 1938 they would never again allow large coinages with multiple different dates and mints!

The Coin.

The obverse shows a three-quarter bust of Booker T. Washington. The legends above read UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and below BOOKER T. WASHINGTON. The inscriptions in the left field show the year of minting (here 1946) and HALF DOLLAR, and in the right field E PLURIBUS UNUM.

The reverse shows the New York University Hall of Fame above (a colonnade containing busts of famous Americans), and the slave cabin of his birth in 1856 in Hales Ford, Franklin County, VA. The mintmark is below this, here an S for the San Francisco Mint. The legend above reads BOOKER T WASHINGTON BIRTHPLACE MEMORIAL, and below *LIBERTY*. The inscription reads FROM SLAVE CABIN TO HALL OF FAME. In the left field is IN GOD WE TRUST, and in the right field FRANKLIN COUNTY VA. The sculpture and lettering on both obverse and reverse sides is sloppy.

The Hall of Fame was designed by the famous architect Stanford White, and built in 1900 for New York University housing alcoves with 98 bronze portrait busts. Subsequently it was sold to Bronx Community College, but still stands. In 1962 a group tried to market medals of these 98 people. But only three types were ever made.

Introducing the Coin.

Ostensibly S.J. Phillips (of the BTW birthplace commission) wanted money to create a tourist attraction out of BTW’s farm and log cabin near Hardy in rural Virginia. He partnered with BTW’s only surviving child at the time, Mrs. Portia Washington Pittman, promising her \$25,000. She later brought suit against him for \$20,000. He had only paid her \$3,900 and 700 coins.

Portia visited the Chairman of the Congressional Coinage, Weights and Measures Committee, persuading him that Phillip’s idea to place a coin in the hands of 5 million African Americans (there were 15 million African Americans in US in

1950) was a stirring idea. It would ensure every African America kid in the country had a motivational pocket piece. The Treasury apparently even agreed to withdraw money from circulation to allow \$2.5 million of commemorative BTW half dollars without increasing the circulating money supply.

BTW’s secretary, Dr. Emmett Scott, asked famous sculptor Charles Keck to create plasters, and Phillips provided a photo to him. Keck tried to get Phillips to reduce the reverse cluttering of words. But, as promoters often do, Phillips would not budge. The Commission of Fine Arts approved the models.

Then a Lexington, Kentucky African American artist, Isaac S. Hathaway, offered to do a free bust from the only life mask of BTW, which he happened to own. The Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) preferred Hathaway’s models to Keck’s, and on October 4th, 1946 approved Hathaway’s models instead. To be fair CFA did comment that two buildings on the reverse was too much. But as before, Phillips would not budge.

Then a thorny situation arose. Keck had not been told about any of this. Naturally, he was furious when he found out. So Phillips paid him for his work, though his models were not used; Hathaway got the publicity but not the pay. PDS sets (i.e. one from the Philadelphia Mint, one from the Denver Mint and one from the San Francisco Mint) were struck every year from 1946 to 1951.

The BTW Memorial Commission tried selling the coins but soon realized they couldn’t, so transferred distribution to Stack’s Coins, a coin dealer in New York City. Later, dissatisfied with Stack’s performance, Phillips appointed a prominent numismatist, Aubrey Beebe, for the 1948-1951 issues. Breen and Swiatek (see reference) estimated 3,166,000 were struck, of which a half were re-melted, for a distribution of 1,574,000, but nobody knows exactly how many.

The coins were sold at \$1 each for the P and S mint, and \$1.50 for the D mint coins in 1946, with a combined distribution of 1,250,000. In 1947 they sold for \$6 a PDS set (with a distribution of 6,000 from each mint). In 1948 they sold for \$7.50 a PDS set (with ad distribution of 8,000 from each mint). In 1949 and 1950 they sold for \$8.50 a set, and in 1951 for \$10 a set. Distributions in 1949 were 6,000 per set, and in 1950 6,000 per set, except for 62,000 S mint coins. In 1951 distribution was 7,000 per set except for 210,000 P mint coins.

According to Swiatek and Breen (see references), “Issues of 1950 and 1951 were earmarked for building additional schools and hospitals.... Phillips’ grandiose plans came to nothing” “He had originally hoped to sell the entire 5 million coins...at \$1...to African Americans within 90 days”. Arnie Slabaugh (see references) estimates only 3% of the coins were bought by African Americans though how he arrived at that figure no one knows.

In 1955, the birthplace memorial site was sold to the State of Virginia, to pay off \$140,000 owed by Phillips’ commission. Virginia in turn presented it to the federal government. Presumably, as so often happens with promoters, Phillips misspent profits from the sale of one and a half million coins totaling around \$2.5 million. The average US family income in 1950 was \$4,237, and in 2017 was

\$61,372. Thus \$2.5 million then was worth around \$33 million today. Also in 1948 the state of Virginia gave Phillips a grant of \$15 million. All this money had to do something, presumably it helped African American education and built schools in the South.

In 1956, Phillips tried to get Congress to melt 100,000 coins and restrike them for a celebration of BTW's birth in 1856. But Congress had been there before. They were in no mood for more of the same old promoter's shenanigans. Nevertheless, they did allow the remainder of the congressionally allowed BTW coins not minted to be added to the next African American celebration coin, the Washington – Carver half dollar of 1951-1954.

Overall, collectors were not that interested in the coins, the artistry was questionable, and the execution of the sculpture was slovenly (except for the bust). Also the Mint released most coins with too many bag marks. This was all a great pity because B.T. Washington was a great man.

Booker T. Washington.

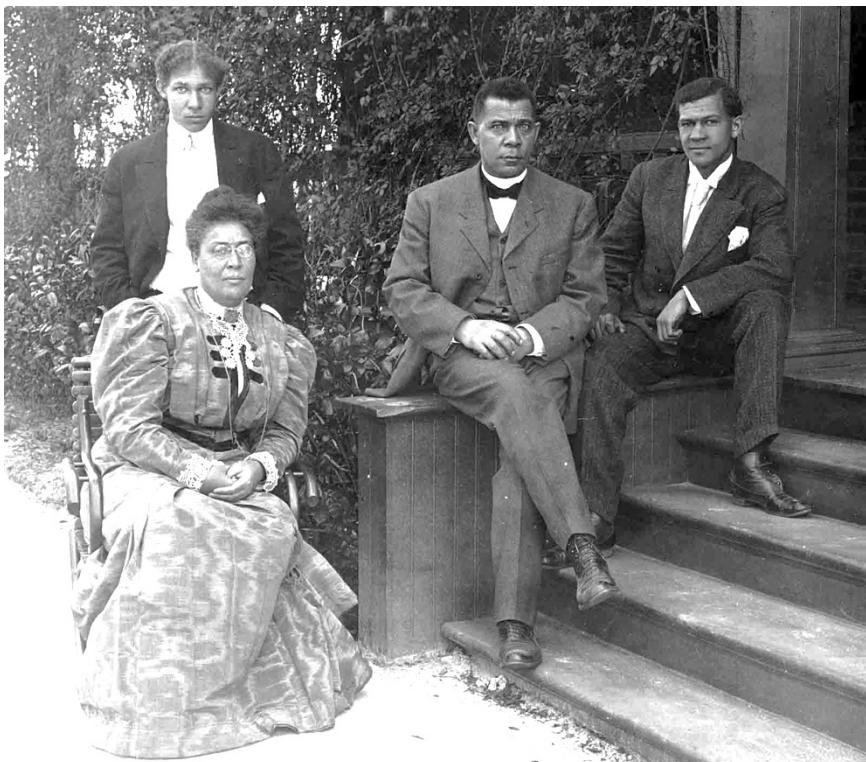
The coin said it well: "he rose from slavery to the Hall of Fame". Born into slavery in 1856 in Franklin County, Virginia, he never knew the exact year of his birth (some say 1848), nor even who his father was (said to be white).



Booker T. Washington.

His family was emancipated in 1863 after Lincoln's emancipation proclamation, but were not actually freed until the end of the Civil War in 1865. BTW's mother was named only Jane, and her husband (BTW's step-father) was Washington Ferguson, who later escaped from slavery during the Civil War. So Jane and BTW joined Washington in West Virginia after emancipation. BTW went to school where he had to supply a last name – Washington was chosen.

BTW worked in the mines in West Virginia, then in 1872 went to Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, a school for African Americans. He worked as a janitor to pay expenses, graduated in 1875 then located in Malden, West Virginia, where he taught children by day and adults by night. In 1878 he studied at Wayland Seminary, Washington, DC for six months, then returned to Hampton as a teacher in 1879.



Booker T. Washington with third wife Margaret (previous two died), and his 2 sons.

In 1881, Hampton Institute President, Samuel C. Armstrong, recommended BTW lead the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in Alabama. Money was scarce. BTW had the students build classrooms on a plantation he bought. BTW worked so hard as a construction worker, that the students felt they had no option but to follow in his footsteps.

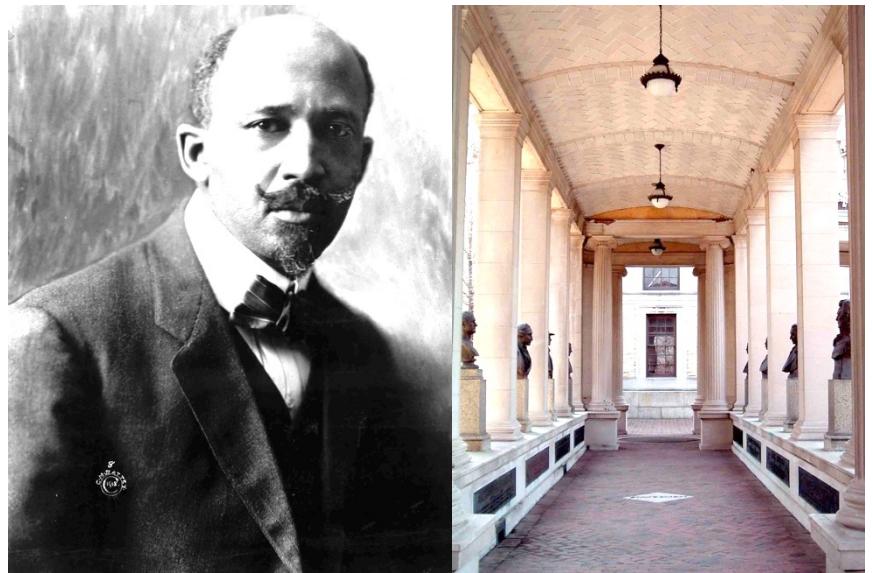
Tuskegee expanded to the Tuskegee University. BTW became an increasingly prominent educator. He raised money from whites and politicians.

His vision for his race was to teach African Americans to become independent with practical skills. He felt that only by becoming moneyed and educated members of society would African Americans be taken seriously. And African Americans should start with a practical and not a liberal arts education.

In 1895, he gave an important speech in Atlanta where he said “in all things that are purely social we can be separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress”. He was thus endorsing segregation.



BTW sitting with the faculty of Tuskegee, next to Andrew Carnegie.



Left: W.E.B. Du Bois in 1918. Right: Hall of Fame in Bronx.

But WEB Du Bois, a Northerner and founder of NAACP and early supporter of BTW later criticized his “Atlanta compromise” as he called it. Saying African Americans needed full civil rights, Du Bois labelled BTW “The Great Accommodator”. By contrast BTW, a Southerner, believed African Americans needed support not confrontation with whites. To be fair to BTW, attitudes in the South were very different from those in the North.

BTW befriended many prominent whites, raising enormous funds for his educational establishments. His contacts included Andrew Carnegie, William Howard Taft, John D. Rockefeller, and George Eastman. He built thousands of African American schools in the south. By 1932 he had originated one third of all southern African American schools.

BTW wrote an autobiography “*Up from Slavery*”, and was the most prominent African American in the US from 1895 until his death in 1915.

Teddy Roosevelt invited him to dinner at the White House in 1901. Southern Senator Benjamin Tillman from South Carolina commented: “the action of President Roosevelt in entertaining that nigger (sic) will necessitate our killing a thousand niggers in the South before they will learn their place again”. This certainly illustrates what life was like in the south for African Americans during the post-bellum era. Reconstruction managed by the Republicans had helped the African Americans, but as soon as they left, southern states passed their own “Jim Crow” laws which disenfranchised them again.

In 1915, BTW died at the age of 59 from malignant hypertension with renal failure. His legacy for African Americans was immeasurable.

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US COMMEMORATIVE \$ 1/2, WASHINGTON CARVER 1952. WASHINGTON & CARVER / USA 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS UNC

73

5 Coins about people. CC50

Washington – Carver 1951 - 1954

Background

The link between Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver was S.J. Phillips, the Booker T Washington coin promoter, who ran out of money and devised a cunning new way of making more money with another coin.

The coin.

The obverse shows two busts. In the foreground is George Washington Carver, and in the background is Booker T. Washington, both looking right. The portraits are crude and unflattering. Behind Carver's neck is 1952, squeezed in as best it can be. The outer legend reads: *UNITED STATES OF AMERICA* IN GOD WE TRUST* E PLURIBUS UNUM*. The inner legend reads GEORGE W CARVER LIBERTY BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HALF DOLLAR. The whole design is atrocious.

The reverse shows a map of America with the states delineated, and with the letters U.S.A. superimposed over it. The legend above reads *FREEDOM AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL*, and the legend below reads *AMERICANISM*. The meaning of Americanism will be explained in the next section. The design and appearance of both obverse and reverse is appalling.

The introduction of the coin.

Sydney "SJ" Phillips of the Booker T. Washington Birth Place Memorial Foundation made millions but wanted more so created the George Washington Carver National Monument Foundation to sponsor the Washington Carver coin. Phillips had been a student of Booker T. Washington, and called himself doctor, but spent his life as a shameless self-promoter using African American commemorative coins to enrich himself, this time by jumping on the McCarthyism bandwagon.

It is said Phillips was trying to dig himself out of his Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial debt. Despite the Booker T. Washington and Washington Carver commemorative coin programs and the \$2½ million profit from the Booker T. Washington commemorative coin program, Phillips put up Booker T. Washington's 300-acre farm to pay off \$140,000 in debt. But Phillips wanted more. He continued until 1962 trying to get more coin bills through Congress! Sadly, his malfeasance and misappropriation of funds closed down the classic commemorative program for good.

A bronze bust was dedicated at Carver's birthplace in 1953. But Phillips did not make it self-supporting, so the National Park Service had to take it over. They also had to restore the house of Moses Carver (George Carver's foster father).

As only three million of the authorized five million Booker T. Washington coins had been minted (of which probably 1.4 million were re-melted), Congress allowed a bill for the remaining two million to be re-struck as the Washington Carver coin. Cunningly, Phillips added the phrase "to oppose the spread of Communism among Negroes" to his proposal. Were it not for that, the bill would probably have failed. This was Phillips using McCarthyism for his own ends.

The Washington-Carver legislation passed in 1951. In 1952, President Truman vetoed the bill for a proposed Minnesota Centennial commemorative half dollar. That was the kiss of death to the classic commemorative program. But, because of the McCarthy, Truman signed Phillip's bill.

Phillips had asked Booker T. Washington's secretary, Dr. Emmett J. Scott who should design the BTW coin. He again suggested Charles Keck, who had been sidelined by the African American Sculptor, Isaac Hathaway designing the Booker T/ Washington commemorative half dollar. But Phillips instead had Hathaway do new sketches for the Washington Carver coin, which he sent directly to the Secretary of the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), H.P. Caemmerer. Phillips hoped to sidestep the Mint and present the approved coin as a fait accompli to them.



Isaac Hathaway (1872-1964) right, from C. Frank Dunn photographic collection.

Hathaway's drawing of the Washington Carver reverse was the American Legion star with the legend UNITED AGAINST THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION. What was all this about?

US Senator Joseph McCarthy from Wisconsin started a witch hunt for communist Americans between 1950 and 1954 using the "Committee on un-American Activities". The era became known as the "McCarthy era" - many lost their jobs even though they were not communists.

The American Legion was founded in 1919 as a patriotic veteran's organization. It peaked at 3.3 million members after the Second World War (though membership is today below 2 million). In 1950 the American Legion unfortunately supported McCarthy and sponsored his appearance at an "Americanism" rally in Houston, Texas, where he mendaciously claimed there was a spy ring of 205 communists in the State Department. He later accused President Harry Truman's administration and the US Army of harboring communists. So the word "Americanism" is really code for McCarthyism. Despite Phillip's cunning statement, African Americans distrusted Soviet racist policies anyway, so scarcely ever supported communism.

Burl Ives, Pete Seeger, Charlie Chaplin, and Orson Welles were all accused. The most famous classical harmonica player of all time, Larry Adler, was fingered too and immigrated to the United Kingdom. He spent his remaining days in the UK. The Queen ultimately offered him a knighthood, but he patriotically refused as he did not want to renounce his US citizenship. He died in the UK in 2001.



McCarthy grilling Joseph Welch, US Army's chief lawyer in 1954.

In 1954, during US Senate hearings, Joseph Welch, the US Army's chief lawyer, challenged McCarthy to produce his fictitious list of 130 communists in US defense plants. McCarthy refused and instead attacked Fred Fisher, a prominent lawyer who represented the US Army at the Army-McCarthy hearings. Welch defended Fisher, and said "Until this moment, Senator, I think I never really gauged your cruelty or your recklessness ...". "Let us not assassinate this lad further, Senator. You've done enough. Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last? Have you left no sense of decency?"

This was the beginning of the end for the repugnant McCarthy. Six months later the US Senate censured him, one of only nine Senate censures in history. The Senate and the press then ignored the disgraced senator as he sat out the final two years of his senatorship. He died three years later aged 48 of alcoholic cirrhosis and heroin addiction.

On October 25th, 1951 Commission of Fine Arts sculptor member, Felix de Weldon, rejected the obverse, wanting profile not three-quarter busts of BTW and George Carver, but approved the reverse. However, Dean Acheson, Secretary of State rejected the reverse because the blatant anti-communism could have escalated the cold war with the Soviets.

So Hathaway changed the reverse to a US map and used the word Americanism as code for McCarthyism. The Mint was miffed as it had been sidelined. Gilroy Roberts, Mint Engraver, denounced the design but was instructed to modify it. It is perhaps the ugliest of all US coins. Indeed, Cornelius Vermeule (see references) comments "a reverse so impoverished of ideas and devoid of artistry".

Parenthetically, I feel the ugliest US coins are the Washington-Carver, the Susan B. Anthony dollar, the Washington quarter, the Presidential series, 1792 half dime, and the 1995 special Olympic dollar with Eunice Kennedy Shriver's image.

Phillips had found he could not sell the 1946 - 1951 Booker T. Washington coins, so enlisted Stack's Coins of New York City to help sell them, later quarrelling with them and trying to appoint Aubrey Beebee (another coin dealer). After Phillip's second visit to the well (taxpayers paying for commemorative coins) failed with his Washington Carver program, prominent African Americans and whites were antagonized.

The Phillips Foundation sold the Washington Carver coins at \$10 for a three-piece set (one coin from each of the three mints), and \$5.50 for a single coin, though later the prices would fall. They were distributed by the George Washington Carver National Monument Foundation, the Booker T. Washington Birth Place Memorial Foundation, banks and Stack's coins of New York City (Beebee's Coins, whom Phillips had tapped before, refused to participate).

Mintages and "meltages" for this series are:

	Philadelphia	Denver	San Francisco	Melted	Net distribution
1951	110,000	10,000	10,000	90,000	40,000
1952	2,006,000	8,000	8,000	900,000	1,122,000
1953	8,000	8,000	108,000	20,000	104,000
1954	12,000	12,000	122,000	80,000	66,000

Total minted: 2,422,000

Melted 1,090,000

Net distributed 1,332,000

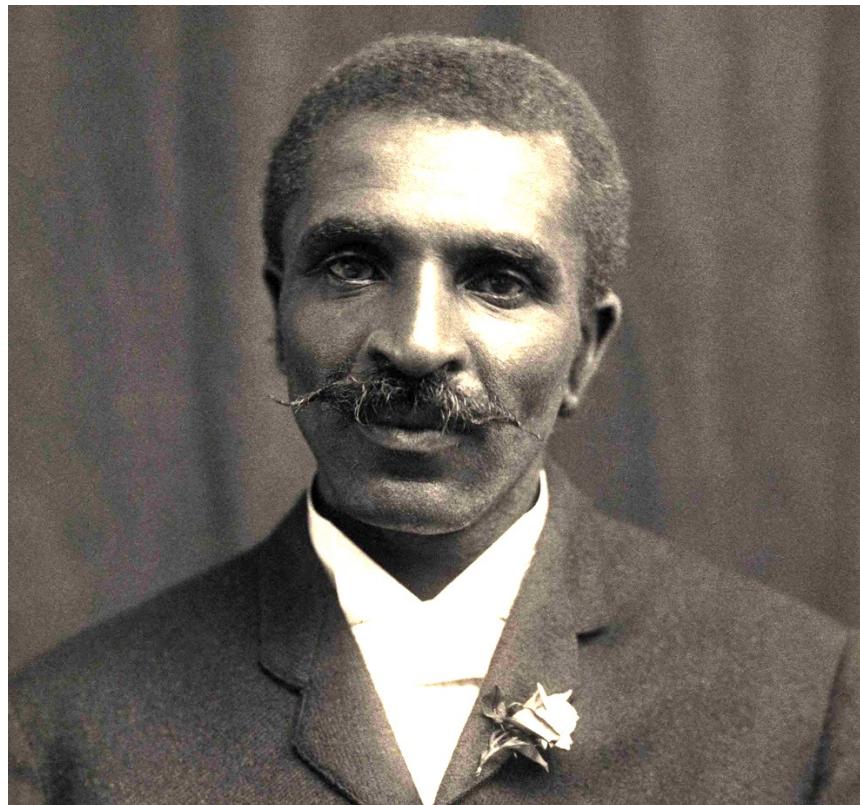
George Washington Carver – the man.

The numismatic link between Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver was the odious S.J. Phillips; but the personal link was that Carver was a botany professor at Booker T Washington's beloved Tuskegee Institute. But Carver was no ordinary botanist. He was a polymath, an artist, mycologist, botanist, agronomist, biochemical engineer and educator.

Born into slavery in Diamond, Missouri during the Civil War, Carver did not know his exact date of birth. Night raiders kidnapped him from his white owners, the Carvers, as a one-week-old baby, together with Carver's mother, Mary, and his sister. All three were sold in Kentucky during the Civil War. Carver's father had died in a log hauling accident.

His owners had a Union scout, John Bentley, find them, and raised George and his brother James as their own sons. Some accounts say he was found on the side of the road. But George's mother, Mary, and his sister were never found. President Lincoln's emancipation proclamation freed all slaves in 1863, but many in the South were kept in slavery until the end of the Civil War in 1865.

George was obviously a precocious kid, and sought out his own education. He had frequent attacks of coughing after a bad bout of whooping cough. He may have suffered from bronchiectasis, a common complication of whooping cough. Apparently he was too frail to work in the fields so helped out around the house.



Washington Carver.

As a child he saw botanical art in a neighbor's house and immediately tried imitating it, making his own dyes and paintbrushes from plants. The nearest school was 10 miles away so around the age of 10 – 12 he walked there and hung around to get schooling.

When asked his name he always said "I am Carver's George", so he became George Carver. He travelled around doing odd jobs getting schooled in Missouri, and graduated finally from Minneapolis High School in Kansas.

He was finally accepted at Highland University, Kansas, but when he arrived they saw he was African American and refused him admission. So in 1886 he homesteaded a 17-acre claim in Kansas. He farmed, did odd job work, accumulated a geology collection, and experimented with plants.

Two years later in 1888 he got a \$300 education loan from a local bank, to study piano and art at Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa, a school that allowed African Americans. At that time a bank loan for such a thing to an African American was inconceivable. He also worked to pay his room and board. His white art teacher was concerned that an African American artist would have difficulty in making a wage. So, seeing his botanical art flair, he persuaded him to study botany at Iowa State Agricultural College where, in 1891, he was the first African American student.

Carver completed his bachelor's then master's degrees, and in 1894 became the first African American Professor at Iowa State Agricultural College. One of Carver's closest friends was the white Professor James Wilson, who would later become secretary of Agriculture. In 1896 Booker T. Washington invited Carver to head the Agriculture Department at Tuskegee where he stayed for 47 years until he died in 1943.

Carver was the first person to bring science to Tuskegee. He was the father of "chemurgy", today called biochemical engineering i.e. applied chemistry that takes agricultural raw materials and converts them to non-food products. He had no funds from Tuskegee so picked from local junkyards to equip his lab.

"White Gold" was the nickname used for southern cotton before the Civil War. America's southern states felt that control of cotton exports would make it prosperous. Further, they felt Britain and France would have to support the Confederacy because their industrial economies depended on cotton. Prices for cotton peaked in 1850s.

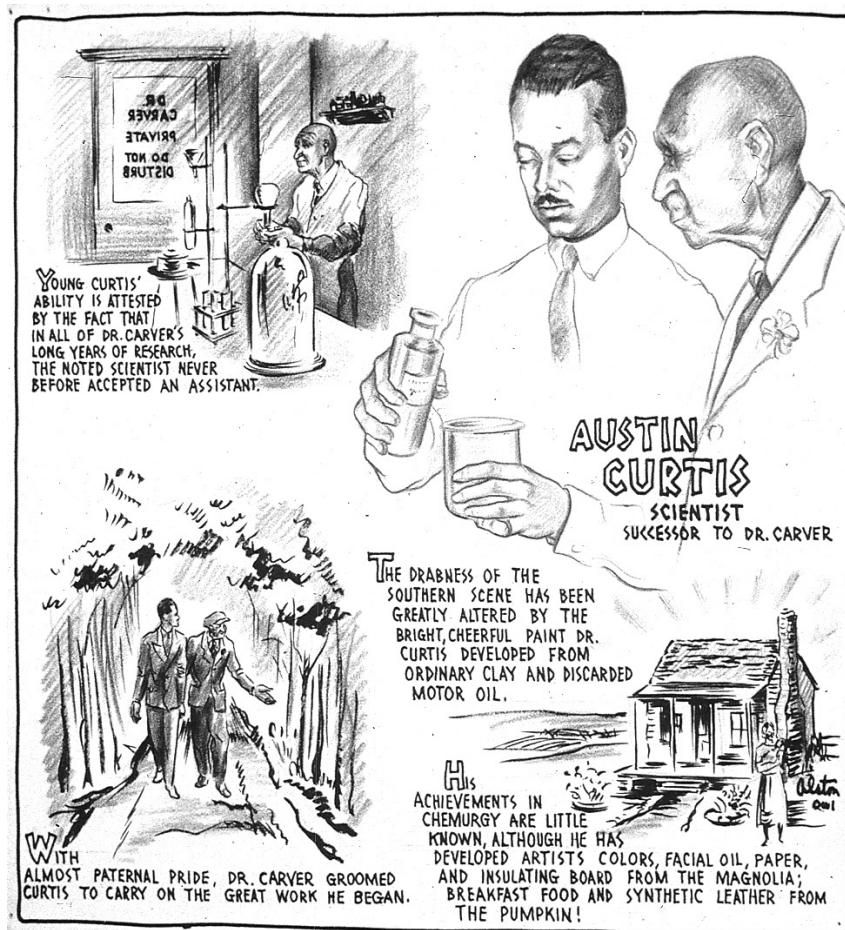
But after the Civil War, with their nitrogen depleted soil and later the boll weevil infestation that peaked in 1892, cotton did poorly. Carver taught crop rotation using peanuts, other legumes, or sweet potatoes to restore the nitrogen depleted soil.

Another problem was that banks in the south would only loan money for cotton, not for peanuts. That was where Carver's peanut evangelism came in! In

particular, he pushed peanut products including peanut oil, flour, linoleum, cosmetics, dyes and plastics, all from peanuts. By 1940 peanuts were the second largest cash crop in the south after cotton. Today there are 50,000 peanut farms in US.

Carver spearheaded many things:

- Chemurgy, including research labs
- Farmer bulletins and education, including nutrition and recipes
- Mobile learning centers to educate farmers
- How to improve depleted soils by rotating legumes, or sweet potatoes, to replenish nitrogen for the cotton crop. Legumes and sweet potatoes have the ability to take in nitrogen from the air and produce nitrogen-containing chemicals that fertilize the soil.
- Alternative profitable crops
- Environmentalism
- Peanut and soy farming

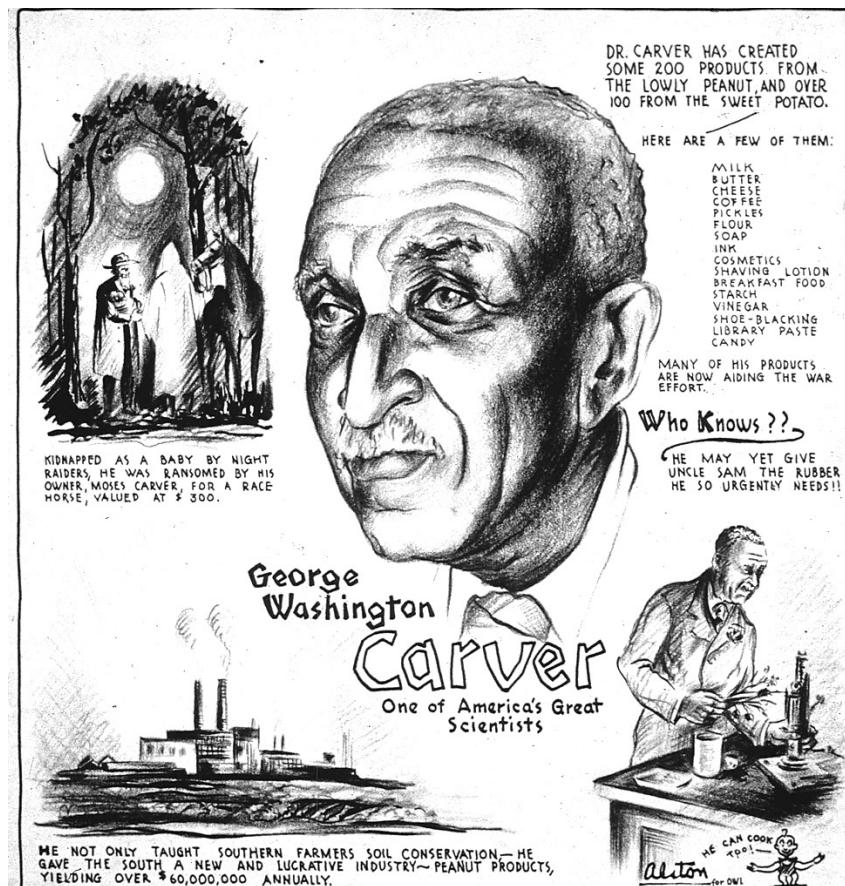


Two posters extolling Professor Carver's achievements.

Carver was in charge of experimental farms and selling farm products to make sorely needed money for Tuskegee. Respecting his brilliance, Booker T. Washington willingly smoothed over Carver's administrative incompetence.

When Carver visited farmers he often wore crumpled suits and was mistaken for a farm hand, except that he usually wore a flower or plant in his lapel. He was often told before a lecture that he should dress better, to which he replied "if they want the clothing, I'll send them the suits, if they want me, I'll come"! In his free time, he enjoyed crocheting and painting.

In 1920 Carver advocated tariffs on imported peanuts from China to support US peanut farmers at the convention of the United Peanut Association of America. In 1921 the Association asked him to testify before Congress. Congress allotted him ten minutes, but were so enthralled by what he had to say that they extended his time to one hour and 45 minutes. This made him a nationally known figure - in the era of segregation it was unthinkable for an African American to testify before Congress as an expert.



After this, Carver the celebrity, spent more time on the road promoting Tuskegee and his agricultural thoughts, especially about his peanuts. He was a religious man and saw this as a way of promoting racial harmony while accepting segregation just as his boss, Booker T. Washington, had done. He turned down a job offer from Edison to work in his lab for \$100,000 a year. Minimum working wage was 25 cents an hour in 1938, and in 2019 is \$7.25. Using minimum working wage as a comparator \$100,000 would now be the equivalent of \$3 million! Carver preferred to remain at Tuskegee earning \$1,500 a year. Wow!

His fame spread beyond America. He helped Mahatma Gandhi with agricultural planning and nutrition in India, turned down a similar request from the odious Stalin in Russia, and was elected to the British Royal Society of Arts. Ford Motor Company asked him to help with a project in 1933, but he would not leave Tuskegee, preferring simply to consult with Ford on soy plastics.

Frugal during his life, he donated his life's savings in 1938 of \$60,000 to establish the George Washington Carver Foundation at Tuskegee to do agricultural research, and to establish a Carver Museum in Austin, Texas, which unfortunately was largely destroyed by fire in 1947.

During the Second World War he developed over 500 different shades of dyes from vegetable products when US could no longer import European dyes.

Carver never married and some have suggested he was bisexual. He had a high-pitched voice, which often alarmed those who did not know him. Various theories have been advanced for the high-pitched voice, for example that he had chronic tuberculous laryngitis, or that he was castrated as a child, or had chronic inflammation from whooping cough as a child. Certainly, rumors of castration seem unlikely as he had facial hair, and was not short. It is also unlikely that the parents who adopted him would have done this to him. There is also no evidence of this, only rumors. The fact is that some men simply have high-pitched voices! Modern medicine can now rectify this by surgery.

He died after falling down stairs in 1943. During the Second World War Senator Harry Truman sponsored a bill for a monument to Carver. It is said it passed because whites felt it would generate patriotism among African Americans and stir them to enlist.

A humble and brilliant botanist, he helped his countrymen just as Booker T. Washington had done with his equally selfless vision. His wife in life was botany. I would urge the reader see the George Washington Carver biography on YouTube.

The last two classic commemorative coins issued were the Booker T. Washington commemorative half dollar and the Washington Carver commemorative half dollar. The Booker T. Washington did its job of honoring him. But the Washington-Carver contains a hidden irony.

The words FREEDOM AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL were the exact opposite of what America did for their African Americans, instead perpetuating the Jim Crow laws discriminating against African Americans in education and in voting rights. Further, the word AMERICANISM is code for McCarthyism with Phillips pernicious lie, "to oppose the spread of communism among Negroes". African Americans were not interested in communism anyway; this was just a way for Phillips to sell his coins.

Charles Morgan and Hubert Walker made a point in their January 15th, 2016 *Coinweek* article. Starting in 1859 our coins showed Liberty with a Native American headdress. At the same time Native Americans found themselves deprived of their lands and marginalized. So, too were African Americans disenfranchised and marginalized with the Washington-Carver coin that at face value says "look what has happened – African Americans are now educated and free". But in fact they continued to be disenfranchised and marginalized.

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US COMMEMORATIVE \$ 1/2, DANIEL BOONE 1936. BOONE / BOONE & BLACKFISH 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS UNC

275

5 Coins about people. CC23

Daniel Boone Bicentennial 1934 - 1938

Background

The Daniel Boone Bicentennial Commission in Lexington, Kentucky, wanted to raise money for the American Order of Pioneers to restore various historical sites. Whether these sites ever benefitted I have been unable to find out, though apparently there was one monument dedicated by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1934 at Pioneer Memorial State Park in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. Daniel Boone was an explorer, hunter, and American folk hero who opened land west of the Appalachians.

The coin.

The obverse shows a bust facing left of Daniel Boone. The legend reads UNITED STATES OF AMERICA above, and HALF DOLLAR below.

The reverse shows Daniel Boone in frontiersman's dress with a coonskin cap and long musket and peace treaty in his right hand. He is speaking with Shawnee Chief, Black Fish (Boone's adoptive father), who is carrying a tomahawk and wearing a cape, buckskin trousers and helmet with feathers (actually a Shawnee Chief would have had a shaved scalp and scalp-lock). A scalp-lock is a long lock of hair left on a shaved head, not uncommon amongst Native Americans. Black Fish's native name was Chiungalla. He was not the first Native American to appear on a US coin. The first was Brûlé Sioux Chief Hollow Horn Bear on the gold quarter-eagle and half-eagle designed by Bela Lyon Pratt in 1908.

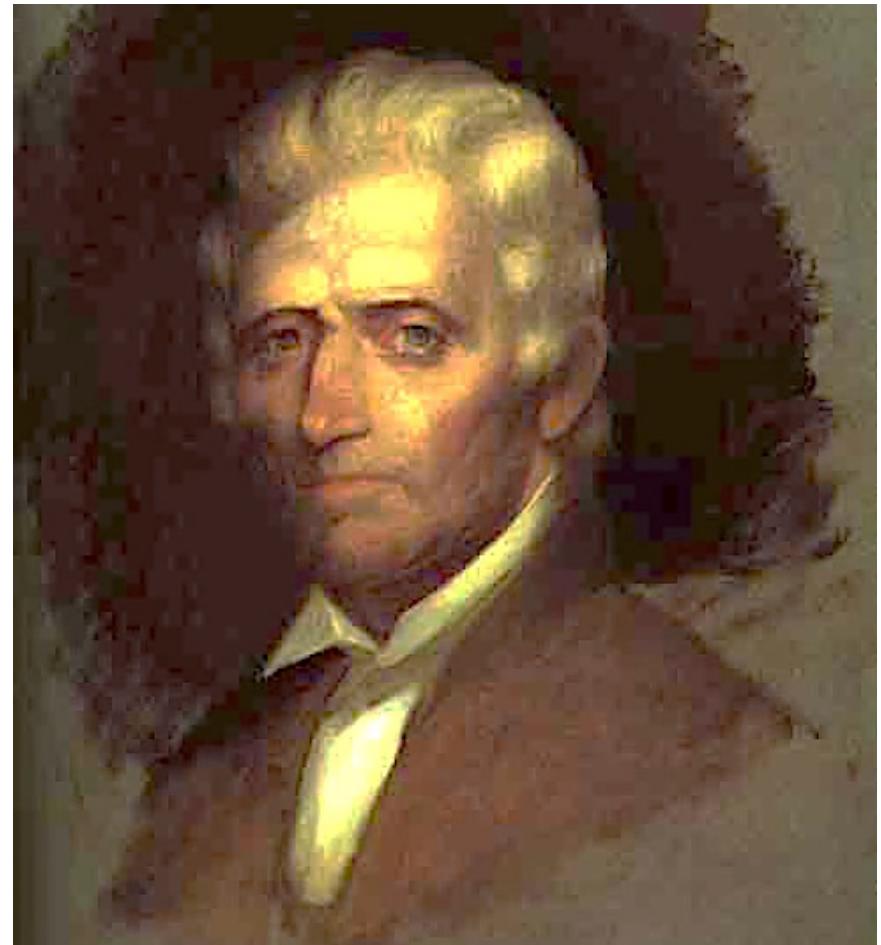
In the left field is a building on an embankment intended to be Boone's blockhouse fort, and on the right is the sun, presumably setting in the west, signifying westward expansion. Others say it is rising in the east! The legend is IN GOD WE TRUST and E PLURIBUS UNUM above, and the date (1935 in this case) below. An inscription in the left field says: DANIEL BOONE BICENTENNIAL, and in the right field says: 1934 PIONEER YEAR.

Introducing the coin.

C. Frank Dunn, Secretary and Chairman of the Daniel Boone Bicentennial Commission chose Augustus Lukeman to sculpt a coin (he was the sculptor who took over from Gutzon Borglum to finish the Stone Mountain Memorial).

When a commission asks a sculptor to make models for a coin, the sculptor must satisfy the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), the Mint, and the requesting Commission. This can make for difficulties. Lukeman said, he agreed to do the models at half price because the commission "lacked funds".

The Boone Family Association, and Dunn asked Senator Alben Barkley (D.-Ky) to push a bill through Congress for a coin which became law May 26th, 1934. Boone had only one surviving portrait by Chester Hardin, and Lukeman's sculpting of him looks to me similar to that picture, but Swiatek and Breen in their 1981 book (see references) say the sculpture is based on the frontispiece in Collins History of Kentucky.



Chester Hardin's unfinished picture of Daniel Boone aged 86.

Dunn disliked Lukeman's designs, especially because the Boone Family Association wanted it modelled after a bust by Albin Polasek in the Hall of Fame in Brooklyn, New York. The Polasek bust is a composite of Hardin's portrait done when Boone was 85 years old, and contemporary descriptions. Further, the Daniel Boone Bicentennial Commission asked for the treaty of Boonesboro, not the treaty of Wataugh. More about this later. Dunn was a stickler for Kentucky history.

The Boone family and Dunn asked the Commission for Fine Arts to fire Lukeman and find another artist. The CFA refused and after long negotiations, Lukeman made various changes, and switched the peace pipe to a tomahawk (how this now represents a peace treaty is anyone's guess!). Cornelius Vermeule (see references) commented: "this coin ranks as America's best artistic endeavors".

Daniel Boone is featured in the Hall of Fame at New York University (now Bronx Community College), who also began to sculpt medals of their honorees.



DANIEL BOONE HALL OF FAME MEDAL FROM YALE UNIVERSITY. 1966 BY CARL JENNEWIN.

#

600,000 coins were authorized in 1934. But rather surprisingly only 10,000 were struck. The first coin was put into a special envelope for Sen. Alben Barkley to sign and deliver to President Franklin Roosevelt. The rest were shipped to Dunn in the Phoenix Hotel in Lexington, Kentucky, where he sold them at \$1.60 a piece.

In 1935, another 10,000 coins were minted at the Philadelphia Mint, and 5,000 each at the Denver and San Francisco Mints. The Boone Bicentennial Commission then asked Congress to pass a law that the original date of 1934 be placed above the inscription PIONEER YEAR. Very clever – this created two varieties of the coin in 1935, so Dunn could ask for 10,000 more from the Philadelphia mint, and 2,000 more each from the Denver and San Francisco Mints (these latter two were advertised for \$3.70 each in the Numismatist). Each mintage naturally had a handful more for assaying. (All subsequent Boone commemorative half dollar dates have this 1934 above PIONEER YEAR).

Then Dunn claimed this issue was sold out, and returned all the checks sent in to him. Prices jumped to \$25, then \$50, even \$100 for a set. This is called restrictive marketing, a technique that was used with Cabbage Patch Kids in the 1980s to increase demand by feigning scarcity. It is thought that Dunn had kept the majority of the 2,000 Denver and San Francisco pairs, to sell them at pumped up prices, claiming he had bought them himself on the aftermarket.

The famous dealer Abe Kosoff said Dunn had two offices on the second floor of the Phoenix Hotel in Lexington, Kentucky; one for official business, and the second his private office for unofficial business. It reminds me of shopkeepers

who used to keep two tills, one for reporting to the IRS, and the other for tax free income for themselves! I am not sure whether this still happens.

Dunn then spent years trying to cover up, telling lie upon lie, then transferred the business to his wife in case he was sued.

Ultimately after agitation by David Bullowa, a coin dealer, Congressional hearings in 1938 lead to legislation changes. For new commemorative authorizations there would be larger issues, to prevent restrictive marketing, and with only one minting per year and coinage at only one mint

To put this in perspective 2,000 sets at \$50 would be a profit of \$98,000. Factory workers in 1935 made 55¢ per hour, in 2018 they averaged \$21.35 per hour. Thus \$98,000 then would be the equivalent to \$3.8 million now. It is thought Dunn pocketed over half of this.

But Dunn was not finished. In 1936 he asked for 12,000 Philadelphia Mint coins which he sold for \$1.10, and 5,000 each of the Denver and San Francisco Mint coins which he sold for \$1.60 each. They all sold.

In 1937, he asked for 15,000 P, 7,000 D and 5,000 S coins. He publicized that 1937 would definitely be the last year of issue and pumped up the prices to \$12.40 per set of three. But demand fell and he returned around half of the mintage for re-melting. Think of it! A guaranteed profit of whatever you like, a cost of half a dollar, and you can order as many as you like, and what you don't sell you can return!

Despite assuring everyone 1937 was the last year, in 1938 Dunn ordered 5,000 more from each mint and discounted the sets to \$6.50 per set. He sold only 2,000 sets and of course returned the rest to the Mint for re-melting. These coins principally exploited numismatists, very few ever saw a non-numismatist.

Dunn (1883-1954) was a historian who founded Kentucky Progress Magazine. He also worked at the Lexington Chamber of Commerce and AAA. He was also editor of the Lexington Herald Newspaper, a one-time professional musician, and owned an advertising agency. As soon as he had made his fortune ripping off the federal commemorative coin system (which he stopped in 1938), he retired to the life of a gentleman, researching historic homes in Kentucky. In 1941 he wrote "The Boarding School of Mary Todd Lincoln".

Daniel Boone.

Daniel Boone (1734-1820) was a frontiersman folk hero, who helped settle Kentucky, the first state west of the Appalachians. Boone got his first rifle aged twelve and learnt to hunt. In so doing he sold furs and learnt local routes. One story chronicles him in the woods with several other boys when a panther charged at them. The other boys ran off, but Boone calmly cocked his rifle and shot the panther dead.

His family was originally Quaker, but they were shunned because their daughter married outside the community, so they moved to North Carolina.

Boone was not formally educated though he could read. But he had deep understanding of nature. During the French and Indian War (1754-1763) between the British and French, Boone was a teamster with his cousin Daniel Morgan (later a General) and was almost killed driving English General Braddock's wagons to the battle of Monongahela.

Boone married Rebecca Bryan in 1756 and, though often insolvent, earned money by hunting and trapping, sometimes alone, sometimes with others. Although his hunts could be brief, they were more often long, sometimes even a couple of years.

In 1767 he reached Kentucky on a long hunt. The area became British territory after the treaty of Fort Stanwix when the Iroquois ceded their claim to Kentucky to the British. In 1769 Boone did another two-year hunt in Kentucky. He came to like Kentucky. In 1773 he and about 50 others established a settlement in Kentucky, but abandoned it when local Delaware, Shawnee, and Cherokee Native Americans tortured several whites, including his son. There developed an ongoing war, with Native Americans trying to defend their territories from the English whites, called Dunmore's war.

Richard Henderson, a prominent North Carolina judge, then hired Boone to pave the way for a 1775 treaty with the Cherokee Tribe. Boone, with thirty others, marked a path through the Cumberland Gap into Kentucky where he founded Boonesborough, where Boone's family moved.

In 1776, Native Americans captured Boone's daughter Jemima. Boone ambushed them, rescuing her and several other white girls. The event was fictionalized by James Fennimore Cooper in "The Last of the Mohicans".

In February 1778 patriots made Boone a Captain to lead expedition, and was captured by Shawnees who were now helping the British (this was during the time of the American Revolution). The captives were presented to the British. The British imprisoned some but Boone was kept by the Shawnees. The Shawnee Chief Black Fish adopted him giving him the name Big Turtle. During his three months' captivity he overheard a British agent say that Fort Boonesborough would be attacked.

Boone escaped and travelled on horseback, then on foot, 160 miles in five days to warn the fort. The Shawnee tunneled to explode the fort's entrance, but Boone tunneled to intercept them with explosives. When Chief Black Fish heard of this he withdrew his 500 men and said he felt Boone was supernatural.

After the siege military relatives of several others who had been captured by the Shawnees brought a court martial charge against Boone. The charges failed and instead Boone was promoted.

In 1780, Boone collected \$20,000 from settlers to buy land claims in Virginia's Kentucky county. While napping in a tavern all his cash was stolen. This was a tremendous blow, but something he would ultimately rectify.

In 1781, Boone went to Richmond to take his seat as a Representative in the Virginia General Assembly. These were dangerous times and British Col. Banastre Tarleton's cavalry intercepted him and held him captive for several days.

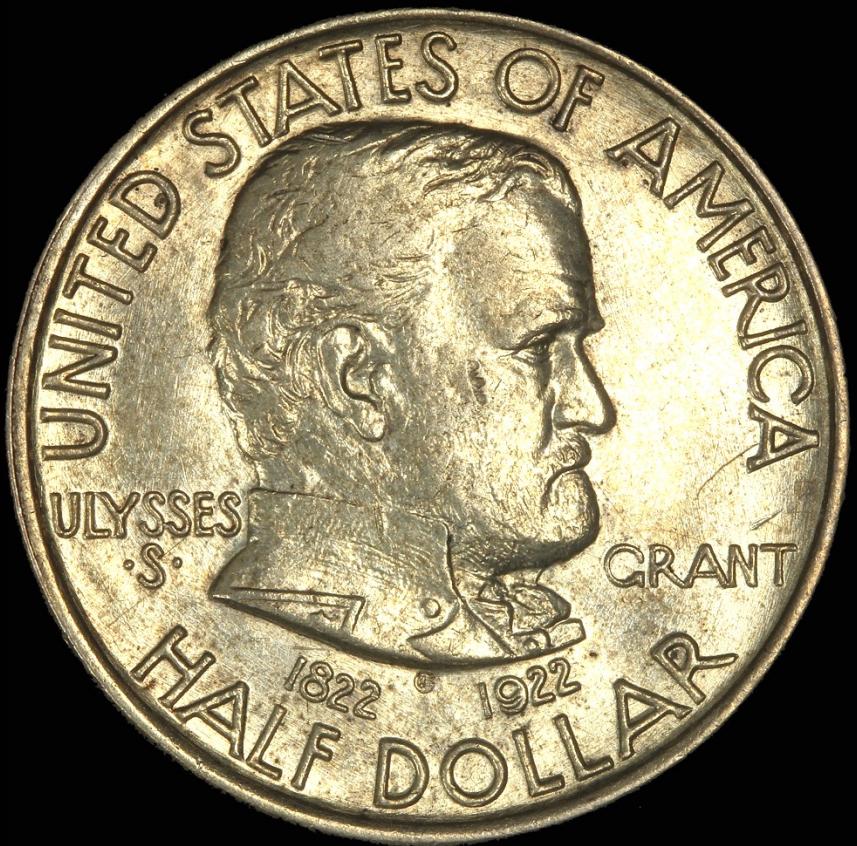
In 1786, Boone settled in Limestone, Kentucky, working as a surveyor, horse trader and land speculator. Although by then the American Revolution had ended, a new war, the Northwest Indian War, between the settlers and Indians resumed which involved Boone, ultimately ending with the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794. The US won and settled land between Kentucky and the Great Lakes, then call Northwest Territory.

Boone made another fresh start in St. Charles County Missouri in 1799 (then part of Spanish Louisiana). His Spanish lands were lost with the Louisiana purchase in 1803, and he petitioned Congress to regain his land claims to sell and pay off his old Kentucky debts.

He died aged 85. The author, John Filson, wrote "*The Discovery, Settlement and Present State of Kentuke (sic)*", with an appendix entitled "Adventures of Col. Daniel Boon (sic)". But as Boone was a modest, taciturn guy, Filson embellished his story considerably. Another writer, Timothy Flint, similarly embellished stories about Boone, creating best sellers. Boone was labelled "the founding father of westward expansion". He became famous and was inducted into the Hall of Fame at New York University, one of only 98 Americans so honored. Interestingly, Boone did not view Western expansion as "manifest destiny". Rather, he admired and sympathized with the Native Americans.

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US COMMEMORATIVE \$ 1/2, GRANT MEMORIAL 1922. GRANT / BIRTHPLACE 30.6MM, 12.5 GRAMS AU 58

458



GRANT COMMEMORATIVE GOLD DOLLAR, NO STAR, 1922. PCGS AU 58

2028

5 Coins about people. CC10 & CC G9.

General Ulysses S. Grant **Centennial Memorial 1922.**

Background

1922 was the 100th anniversary of Grant's birth. He was a two term President, and the only General that Lincoln could find to end the civil war. As a President he tolerated a lot of corruption, but in those times as Arlie Slabaugh (see references) says, "these were years when it was considered 'sharp' to make a dollar from one's neighbor".

The coin.

The obverse shows Grant's military bust facing right. Below the bust is 1822 and 1922, with Laura Gardin Fraser's monogram between. The inscription to the left reads ULYSSES •S•, and to the right reads GRANT. The legends above are UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and below, HALF DOLLAR.

Laura designed two obverses models, one for the gold dollar with ONE DOLLAR, and one for the silver half dollar with HALF DOLLAR. On the half dollar coin is an L and F within a G, just below the neck, but on the \$1 gold coin is a plain G monogram for her maiden name (her husband, James Earl Fraser who designed the Buffalo nickel in 1913, put a plain F on the nickel, so she would not just put an F too).

The hub cleverly had an incuse star struck into it. A die was then produced from that which struck 5,000 coins. Then the relief star was ground off the die and regular coins made without the star. In the 1700s the mint got around 20,000 coins per die, but by the 1920s they were getting at least 200,000 per die, so for most commemorative coins they would only need a new die if it failed.

Laura only designed one reverse model which was reduced by a mint owned reducing lathe to make different size hubs or dies. The reverse shows a small clapboarded house with a fence in front, overpowered by the canopy of surrounding maple trees. The inscription to the left reads E PLURIBUS UNUM and the legend above is IN GOD WE TRUST.

Introducing the coin.

The US Grant Centenary Memorial Association (GCMA) incorporated in 1921 announced plans to construct memorial buildings in Grant's boyhood town in Ohio, along with a five-mile stretch of local road from Richmond, Ohio to Point Pleasant where his home was. As usual these plans never came to fruition!

On October 17th, 1921 GCMA introduced a bill asking for 200,000 gold dollars. The Senate Committee on Banking and Coinage refused to strike so much gold and proposed 10,000 gold and 250,000 silver coins. The bill passed the Senate

on January 23rd, 1922, and passed the House four days later. The President signed it on February 2nd.

The Memorial Association specified the design and asked the sculptor member of the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), James Earle Fraser, for a recommendation. He chose his wife Laura. Is that nepotism or what!? But, to be fair Laura Gardin Fraser was highly accomplished and had already done the 1921 Alabama commemorative half dollar, and would later do the 1925 Vancouver commemorative half dollar, and with her husband the 1926-1939 Oregon Trail commemorative half dollar.

On February 24th, James Fraser showed his wife's model for the gold obverse to CFA. Of course James Earle Fraser was the the sculptor member and naturally approved it! He approved the half dollar obverse model on March 3rd and the reverse model of course too! On March 31st all the gold coins were minted – a very rapid turnaround because of Laura's favored status. Laura sculpted a pugnacious, gruff, bust portrait facing right, taken from the photograph by Mathew Brady, the famous Civil War photographer. On the reverse she sculpted his fenced clapboarded house in Point Pleasant, Ohio, under a canopy of a stand of maple trees. Some have commented the overarching trees were artistically unusual.

The Memorial Association knew that the 1921 Alabama commemorative half dollar sold more by creating two varieties. They used one with 2X2, representing Alabama as the 22nd state to enter the Union, and the X being the St. Andrew's cross on the Alabama state flag. Likewise, the 1921 Missouri commemorative half dollar sold more using a 2*4 variety, representing Missouri as the 24th state in the Union, and the star representing the extra star on old glory. Well, the Grant Memorial Association had to do the same! But they could not think of a device, so they just stuck a 5 pointed star on it. This represented nothing but a marketing gimmick!

The star variety was intended only for the gold dollar, and 5,000 were minted with the star then 5,000 without (done by grinding the star off the die). Supposedly 5,000 commemorative half dollars were also minted with a star by mistake, then 95,000 without the star. Today the with star half dollars sell for about ten times as much as the without star, but the gold sell for about the same price. Net distributions were 5,000 each for the gold and 4,256 for the star half dollar and 67,405 for the without star.

At the time the half dollar sold for \$1.50 with star, and 75¢ without star. The gold one dollar coins sold for \$3.50 with star, and \$3 without star.

Virtually all the coins went to numismatists as the general public was not interested. As usual all the profits were frittered away and the buildings and road never got built. Why Congress continued allowing this process to go on for so long would only amaze those who think politicians are discerning people.

In 1935, a Bronx dentist bought a few hundred plain Grant half dollars and punched stars into them. At the time a plain half dollar sold for \$3 and a star half dollar sold for \$65. This has created a problem for collectors ever since, but they can be told apart:

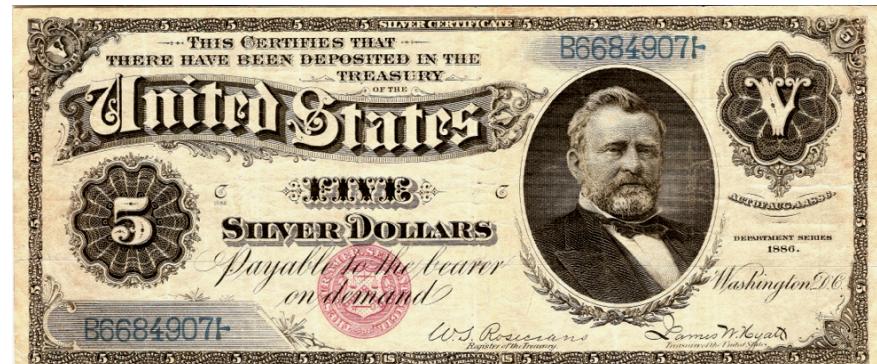
- A doubled G in GRANT rules out a real star coin
- Most real star coins show clashed dies with spicules coming from Grant's chin and bowtie, but not all
- There is also a tiny pimple inside the star at 9 o'clock seen with a loop
- There may be a little flattening on the reverse over the star.

Four proofs with star are known for the half dollar and four without star half dollar proofs have been reported.

Amusingly, Breen and Swiatek in their 1981 book say this coin's history is a heyday for numerologists. Grant was born in 1822, there are two coins, each with two varieties. And President Warren Harding signed the authorization bill on 2/22!

Ulysses S. Grant – the man.

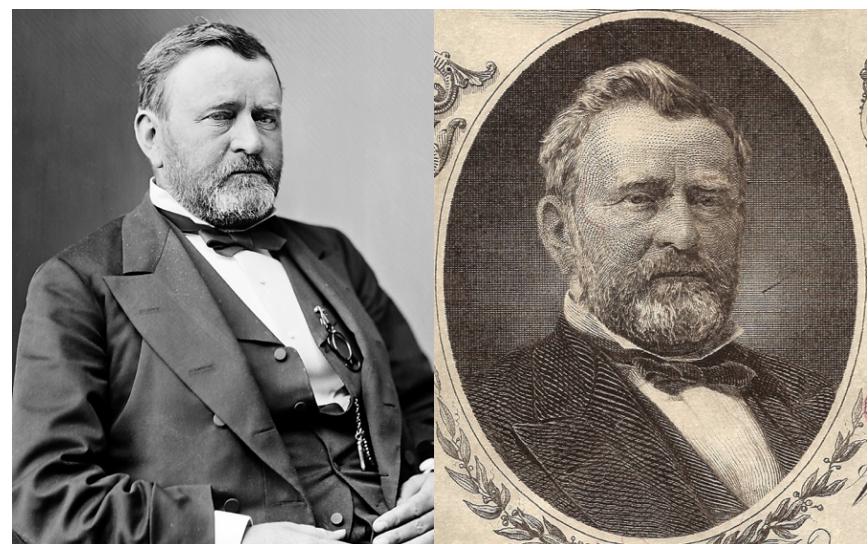
Grant is honored on more than just commemorative coins. The \$5 Silver Certificate features his portrait. The following is an extract from my book "Notable Notes":



\$5 Silver Certificate "Silver Dollar Back" Fr 260 VF 20.

This note is the famous silver dollar back so called because it had five Morgan dollars on the back. It is dated 1886. It is the second time "In God We Trust" shows on a federal note (as it is written on the reverse of the Morgan dollars). The first time it appears is on the Florida state seal of First Charter National Bank notes. It was in 1957 that the motto became mandatory on current bills.

General Ulysses S Grant was born 1822 in Ohio. His father was a tanner who taught him the trade. A great General, he took Forts Henry and Donelson located in Tennessee in 1862 – the first Union victories, and in 1863 secured the Mississippi River by taking Vicksburg. He was named Commander-in-Chief in 1864. Historians have ranked him low as President because he tolerated corruption, though he supported civil rights for blacks. Swindled out of his investments after he retired from the Presidency, he wrote a notable memoir while he was dying from cancer of the tonsil. The income from this provided for his family after he died in 1885 at the age of 63.



Left: General Ulysses S. Grant photographed by Mathew Brady 1870 -1880.

Right: from \$5 Silver Certificate

In 1848, Grant married Julia Dent who was a cousin of Confederate General James Longstreet who actually introduced her to him. Grant's given name was Hiram Ulysses Grant but Congressman Thomas Lyon Hamer of Pennsylvania, who nominated him for West Point, wrote his name as Ulysses S. Grant as his mother's maiden name was Simpson. West Point would not allow any change. He was nicknamed Uncle Sam or "Sam" because of his new name. He graduated 21st of 39 students.

He served in the Mexican-American War under Generals Zachary Taylor and Winfield Scott as a quartermaster, but nevertheless saw action and was brevetted twice for bravery. Brevetting meant a temporary assignment of a higher rank, (sometimes for bravery), without the pay, responsibility or authority of the higher rank. It was very common practice in the civil war.

The practice of breveting disappeared around 1900 though during the first and second world wars it was common for career soldiers to be given a higher rank during the war. My own father, a British career officer, was made a Lt. Col. during the second world war at the age of 26, and after the war reverted to Major. He was 43 before he was made Lt. Col. again. The word brevet comes from the Latin brevis for short.

After Mexico, Grant was posted to Fort Vancouver on the northern bank of the Columbia River in present-day Washington State, then in 1854 to Fort Humboldt, California. That year he abruptly resigned possibly because of depression. His senior officer Col. Robert Buchanan hated him, and it was he that suggested alcohol was a problem. Grant then tried farm laboring, bill collecting, and finally asked his father for a job in his leather tanning business.

In 1861, following the outbreak of the Civil War, Grant returned to the army, recruiting and training army volunteers. As he did this efficiently, Illinois Governor Richard Yates made him a Colonel in the Illinois militia. By August President Lincoln made him a brigadier of volunteers, so he must have been able.

Major General John Fremont appointed him to command in Missouri. In February 1862 he captured two important Confederate river forts – Fort Henry on the Tennessee River, and Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River. He established himself as cool, determined and hardnosed. At Donelson he forced the unconditional surrender of 12,000 men of Confederate General Simon Bolivar Buckner. There Grant earned the nickname “unconditional surrender Grant”. Lincoln then promoted him to Major General. His superior Major General, Henry Halleck, became jealous and relieved Grant of his command in March, until Lincoln objected. Halleck was also a rabid teetotaler, and Grant had been accused of drinking too much. Recurrent depression is a terrible disease, and not uncommonly sufferers seek relief from drugs of alcohol during episodes.

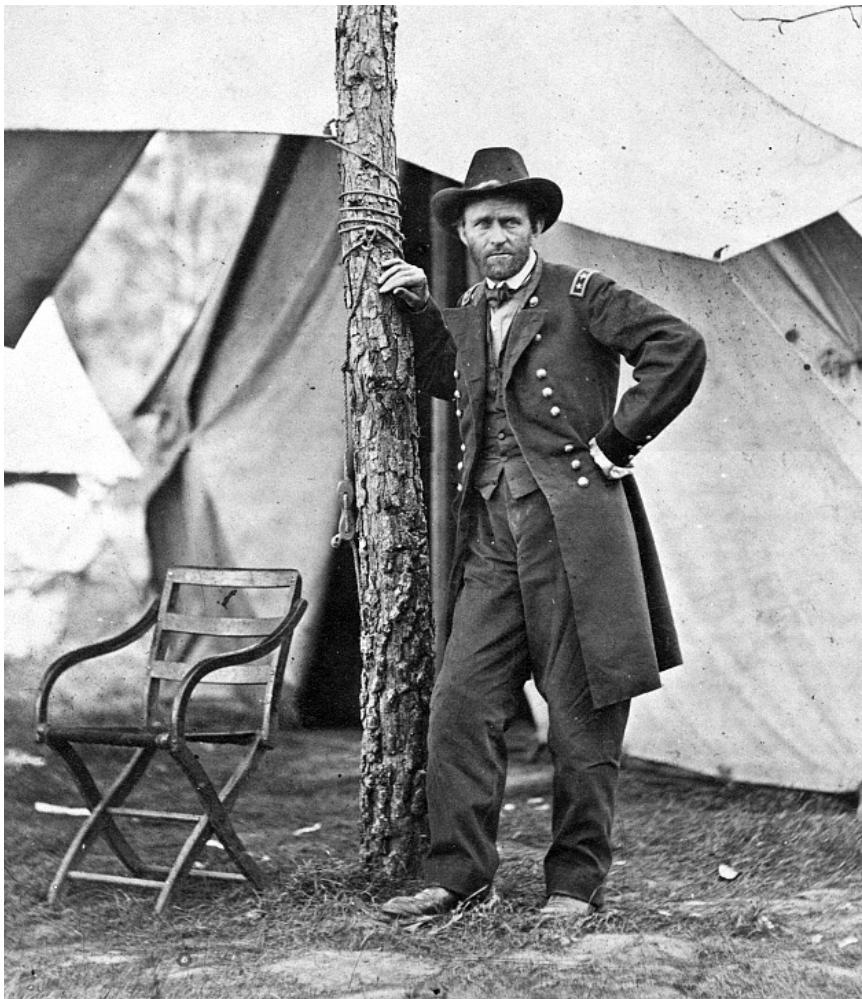
In April 1862 Confederate Generals Albert Johnston and P.G.T. Beauregard attacked violently at Pittsburg Landing on the west bank of the Tennessee River, starting the battle known as the Battle of Shiloh. Grant dug in his heels and won the battle after two days of hard fighting. But Halleck again intervened, ensuring that Grant was only second in command of the Union Army of the Tennessee. Lincoln withdrew Halleck using the Peter Principle (i.e. he promoted him to General in chief of the Union Army in Washington to get rid of him). Grant was left commanding the Army of the Tennessee, which is what Lincoln wanted in the first place.

In 1863, Grant conducted his masterful strategy to take Vicksburg by siege. Confederate General John Pemberton surrendered after a six-week siege. This importantly split the Confederacy in two, east and west of the Mississippi River, on July 4th, 1863. With the previous day's Union victory at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, this was the turning point of the war.

Confederate General Braxton Bragg surrounded the Union army under General William Rosecrans in Chattanooga, Tennessee in October 1863. Grant, new head

of the Military Division of Mississippi replaced Rosecrans with General George Thomas, re-provisioning the stuck troops. In November Thomas finally won the Battle of Chattanooga. Impressed, Lincoln made Grant the General-in-chief of the regular army in March 1863 as a Lieutenant General i.e. a three-star general. He was the first US officer to hold that non-breveted rank since Washington.

In March 1864 Grant put Major General William Tecumseh Sherman in charge of all forces in the West and then personally led the Union to destroy the Army of North Virginia under General Robert E. Lee. Grant was the first General to co-ordinate strategy to accomplish goals using destruction of infrastructure i.e. total war. He coordinated with Major General Franz Sigel in the Shenandoah Valley destroying West Virginia railroads. Major General Tecumseh Sherman took Georgia and Atlanta, and Major General Nathaniel Banks captured Mobile, Alabama. Grant himself fought Lee.



Gen Grant (four stars) at Battle of Cold Harbor 1864. Photo by Matthew Brady.

In May 1864 Grant started his war of attrition against Lee's Army of Northern Virginia: The Battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor (which Grant attacked without adequate reconnaissance), which led finally to the siege of Petersburg. When people complained Grant drank too much Lincoln said: "I wish some of you would tell me the brand of whiskey that Grant drinks. I would like to send a barrel of it to my other generals". It is said Grant preferred "Old Crow" Bourbon.

In April 1865 Grant forced Lee to evacuate Petersburg, Virginia, thereby abandoning Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy. Grant successfully surrounded Lee at Appomattox Courthouse in southern Virginia forcing Lee to surrender. Grant offered generous terms. In 1864 Congress had revived the rank of four-star general (last held by George Washington), and Lincoln promoted Grant to this rank with the title of general-in-chief. Imagine being the first four-star general since Washington at the age of 42!

Undoubtedly Grant was a brilliant general but he was less prepared for politics. Accused, probably falsely, of anti-Semitism, and possibly falsely, of alcoholism, he was elected Republican President in 1868. He was re-elected in 1872 for a total term of eight years.

Aged 46, the youngest President so far, he presided over the later part of Reconstruction, having built a patronage based Republican Party in the South. After Grant left office in 1877, the Democratic machine took control of every Southern State.

Grant wanted to protect blacks' rights, and suppress the Ku Klux Klan, but felt state militias not the General army should handle local unrest. Recall in those days Republicans and Democrats stood for different things than today. Republicans were pro-African American. Democrats were pro Ku Klux Klan.

During the Panic of 1873 Grant did nothing. In 1876 he vetoed a bill to print more legal tender to expand the money supply. The continuing depression led to Democratic control of the House. The Democrats exposed rampant corruption, not by Grant himself, but within his administration, but which Grant tolerated.

In March 1869 the GOP Congress passed an "Act to Strengthen the Public Credit". Treasury Secretary George Boutwell reorganized the Treasury Department, tax collection and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, to protect currency from counterfeiting.

In September 1869 two financiers, Jay Gould and James Fisk, tried to corner the gold market by buying large quantities of gold. They recruited Grant's brother-in-law, Abel Corbin, a financier, to try to influence Grant. Corbin convinced Grant to appoint Brigadier General Daniel Butterfield as Assistant Treasurer of the United States. Corbin also tried to persuade Grant not to sell government stocks of gold. Grant's Assistant Treasurer Butterfield would later tip Gould and Fisk off when the government was going to sell gold. Grant ultimately decided to flood the market with gold. Fisk and Gould got out in time but many investors were ruined. The scandal was called "Black Friday".

In 1875, Grant signed the Resumption of Specie Act to come into effect in 1879, leading to federal bank notes being redeemed at par with gold. Also in 1875 a group of whiskey distillers, called the "Whiskey Ring" bribed Internal Revenue officials to keep \$3 million of liquor taxes for themselves. 238 people were indicted and 110 convicted. Unfortunately, Grant pardoned them all.

Grant tried to annex Santo Domingo (now known as the Dominican Republic). He felt it would provide a safe haven for freed African Americans and that their exodus from the South would persuade Southern Whites to accept African American civil rights. It would also persuade neighboring Cuba to give up slavery if they had free blacks living next door. However, political opposition by Democratic US Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts nixed the deal.

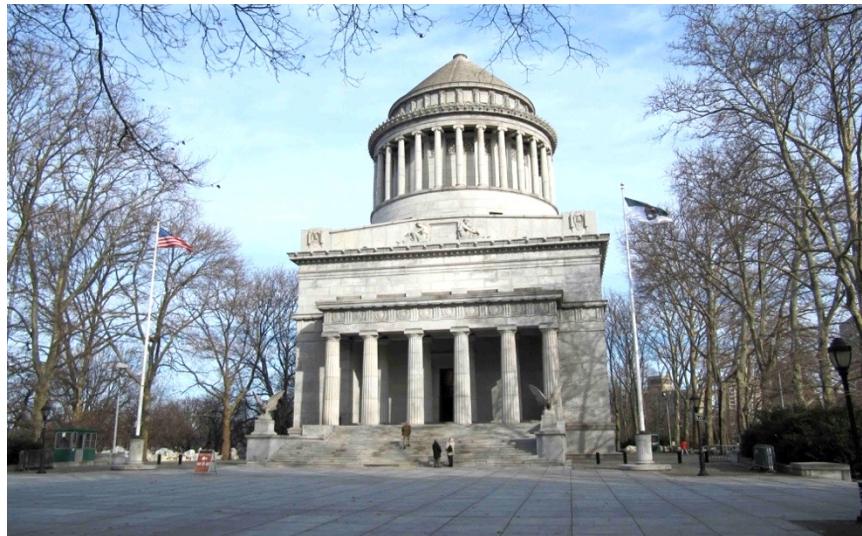
After he left the Presidency, Grant went on a world tour for two years. In 1880 he tried for a third term in the White House but failed. In 1881 he bought a house in New York City. He put virtually all his money in an investment suggested by his son with Ferdinand Ward. Ward, like modern day Bernie Madoff, swindled Grant out of it all three years later in 1884.



Grant while dying from cancer of the tonsil, on the deck of his house writing his autobiography to provide for his family

Also in 1884 Grant discovered he had cancer of the tonsil – frequently seen in people who have drunk and smoked heavily. Destitute and terminally ill, Grant set about writing his autobiography to provide for his family. It provided over \$450,000. Mark Twain promoted it. Others have said it is among the finest memoirs ever written. Grant died the next year, a few days after its completion. He is buried with his wife in Grant's Tomb in New York City – the largest Mausoleum in the US. The picture on the previous page shows Grant on his front porch writing his autobiography.

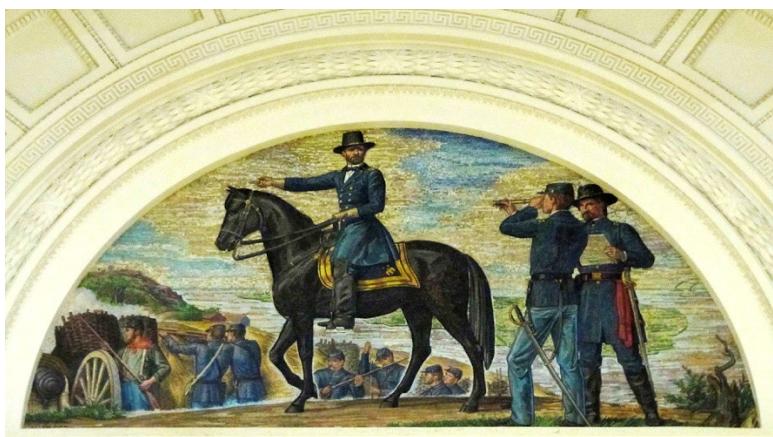
In 2012, I visited the splendid Grant Mausoleum and took some pictures with my iPhone:



Grant's Mausoleum in New York City. Pediment reads: LET US HAVE PEACE.



Grant's tomb next to his wife Julia.



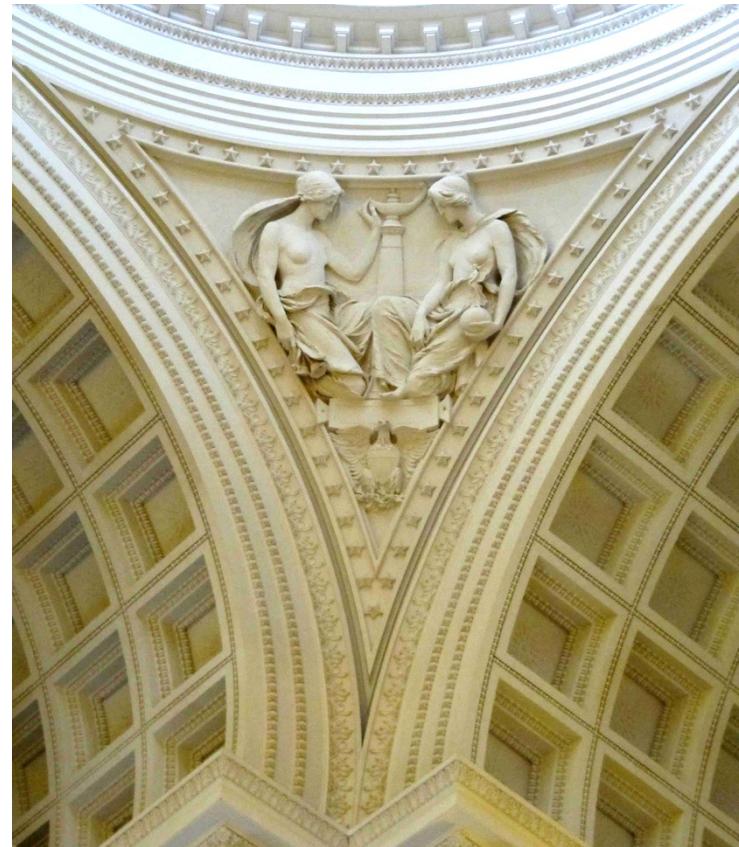
Alcove details.



Architectural detail.



Rotunda over the tomb. Note three alcoves off rotunda



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US COMMEMORATIVE \$1, LAFAYETTE 1900. WASHINGT & LAFAYETTE / LAFAYETTE STATUE 38.1MM, 26.71 GRAMS AU 58

209

5 Coins about people. CC3.

Lafayette Dollar, 1900.

Background

In 1820, the Lafayette Memorial Commission wanted to erect an equestrian statue of Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette (called simply Lafayette in the US) at the Universal Exposition in Paris, to be sculpted by Paul Wayland Bartlett as a gift to the French people. Bartlett (1865-1925) was a US sculptor who spent much of his time in Paris. This was the first commemorative coin after the Columbian World's Fair at Chicago in 1893, and Paris' 1900 Exposition was France's answer to the United States' Columbian World's Fair.

The Coin.

The obverse shows the conjugate heads of Washington in the front, and Lafayette in the back. The legend reads UNITED • STATES • OF • AMERICA *LAFAYETTE • DOLLAR*

The reverse shows Lafayette on horseback as Charles E. Barber, Chief Mint engraver, conceived the equestrian statue might be. The horse is walking to the left with its right front and left hind hooves off the ground. It is not trotting, as during trotting, cantering and galloping the horse can have all four hooves off the ground, a fact only really known since the advent of slow motion photography.

Folk wisdom in America and England has it that you can tell how a rider died by the number of hooves in the air on a statue. If a horse is rearing with both front legs off the ground the rider died in battle; if one front leg is up it means the rider was wounded in battle (which happened to Lafayette) or died of battle wounds later; if all four hooves are on the ground the rider died outside the battlefield. This so-called "hoof code" is only partially correct.

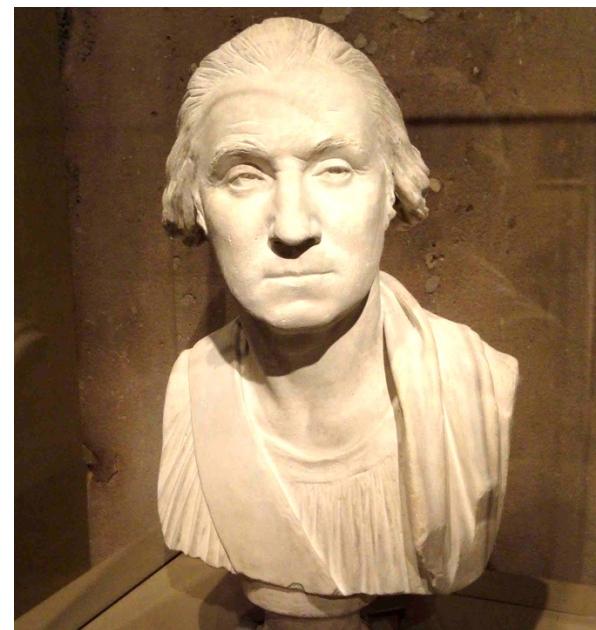
Lafayette's sword is reversed at 60°, signifying a ceremonial walk rather than going into battle. Below, on the plinth is BARTLETT in incuse, and below the base is an olive branch for peace. The legend reads: ERECTED•BY•THE • YOUTH •OF•THE •UNITED•STATES•IN•HONOR•OF•GEN•LAFAYETTE *PARIS*1900*. This is the only time the Mint agreed to place next year's date on a coin, as it was minted in 1899 ready for the Paris Exposition.

Charles Barber, Chief Engraver of the Mint, executed the dies. He has been criticized for his series of "Barber" coinage of dimes, quarters and half dollars issued from 1892 to 1916. Don Taxay also criticized Barber's conjugate busts saying they were amateurish, and certainly Barber plagiarized the obverse. Cornelius Vermeule (see references below) also criticizes the excessive lettering on the coin, pointing out he could just have put FROM THE YOUTH OF US. PARIS 1900. They would have gotten the point!

I recall at a British high school doing "precis", a technique in English for shortening prose to one third of its length. The teacher told us that on a tube of glue was once written "optimal effects from this product will be obtained by spreading a minimal amount of product on the maximal surface area". He asked for suggestions. The answer was "spread thinly"! I sometimes feel that the Victorians were particularly wordy, and reveled in it, as some still do today!

Introduction of the coin.

The Lafayette Commission asked for 100,000 commemorative half dollars, but on March 3rd, 1899 Congress authorized 50,000 commemorative dollar coins instead. In those days the engravers were the Mint personnel so you did not have to go through a Commission of Fine Arts. Barber took Washington's portrait from Houdon's bust, a common practice.



Plaster bust of Washington by Jean Antoine Houdon French Sculptor ca. 1786.

Barber said he took Lafayette's portrait from the 1824 "Defender of American and French Liberty" medal by Francois Caunois (below).



Medal by Caunois, Paris Mint, of General Lafayette 1824 for US visit #2389

It is possible that Barber used several sources, as he had access to medals and images as the Mint Engraver. Another medal he could have used was the “Vengeur de la Liberté” 1789 medal by the French medalist Duvivier:



Lafayette Vengeur de la Liberté Medal 1789 #1824

But Arnie Slabaugh (see references) points out that more likely he plagiarized the obverse from the Yorktown Centennial medal of 1881 by Peter Krider. The Lafayette dollar looks uncannily like this!



Krider's Yorktown Centennial Medal 1881. Courtesy of Heritage Auctions, HA.com

Only a one-third size bronze model was ready for the 1900 Paris Exposition. So Bartlett, the sculptor, did a full size plaster statue for the Exposition, which was exhibited first at the Louvre, to oohs and aahs, just before being exhibited at the Exposition. The Commission also encouraged schoolchildren to contribute, perhaps a cent or two per child. This raised \$50,000 to make the bronze statue.

After the Exposition, Bartlett changed his sculpture to a new full-size Lafayette bronze which the French finally installed in the Place du Carrousel, close to the Louvre in 1908 (above). Andrew O'Connor made a slightly changed copy in 1924 in Baltimore (see next page).



Bartlett's bronze equestrian statue installed in Paris 1908, different from the coin.

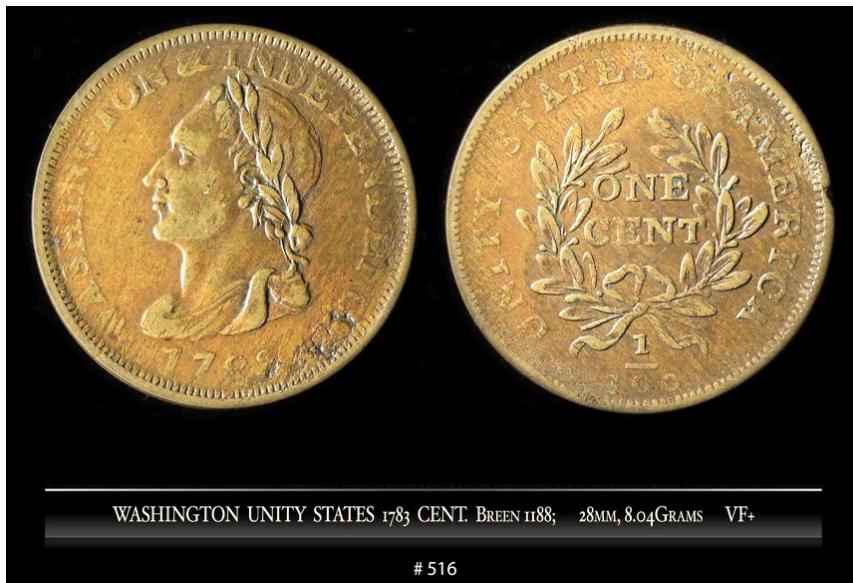
The boring epigraphy you see on the side of O'Connor's 1924 base contrasts markedly with the stirring epigraphy in French on the opposite side (see next page). A translation of the French is: “in 1777 Lafayette crossed the oceans with his French volunteers, to come and bring fraternal aid to the American People who were fighting for their national liberty. In 1917 France was fighting in its turn to defend her life and liberty. The Americans who never forgot Lafayette also crossed the oceans to aid France, and the World was saved”. Stirring!

The Mint was a stickler for only placing the date on coins of the actual year of minting. But the Commission wanted a 1900 date for the Paris Exposition. A compromise arose – a reverse legend reading Paris 1900. Thus this coin technically has no actual minting date on it.



Andrew O'Connor's variation of Bartlett's Equestrian Statue of Lafayette, 1924 in Baltimore

This is the first time Washington had appeared on a legal tender coin. Many wanted his head on the first American coins, but he refused. Here are two contemporaneous examples intended as samples.



WASHINGTON UNITY STATES 1783 CENT BREEN 1188; 28MM, 8.04GRAMS VF+

516



LARGE EAGLE WASHINGTON CENT 1791. BREEN 1206; 30MM, 12.67GRAMS AU

482

Another interesting factoid: this was the first time a dollar coin did not say "one dollar" but "Lafayette dollar", reminiscent of the Columbian World's Fair commemorative coin with "Columbian Half Dollar".

The Philadelphia Mint struck all 50,000 coins on a single day on December 14th, 1899, the exact centennial of Washington's death. The first coin struck was sent to President McKinley who had it encased in this special \$1,000 ornamental presentation box with a plaque to the French President Emile Loubet:



This box was given to Robert J. Thompson, the Secretary of the Lafayette Memorial Commission, to hand deliver it to the French President Emile Loubet, in a special ceremony at the Elysée Palace on March 3rd, 1900. (They were trying for Washington's birthday on February 22nd, 1900 but missed it!)

America sent Lafayette dollars to France for the Exposition but many were returned. In all 36,000 were distributed. The American Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago and Paris Exposition sold the coins. The remaining 14,000 coins, instead of being melted were put in canvas bags and stored at the Treasury Building in Washington, DC. In 1945 Aubrey Beebee, a coin dealer who had discovered that the Treasury had the coins, rushed there to try to rescue them. But he was too late, just weeks earlier the Treasury had melted them. B. Max Mehl, another coin dealer, also made a bid for them but was also too late.



French Stock Certificate for 1900 Paris Exposition. It entitled the bearer to twenty entry tickets to the exposition, rail tickets and entry into a lottery!

In 1988, numismatist Frank DuVall described four obverse and five reverse dies for the Lafayette dollar. They were combined as 1A, 1B (commonest), 1C, 2C, 3D, and 4E. The Mint had been getting up to a million Morgan dollars from a single die, so why so many different dies for only 50,000 coins? I don't know.

Many coins sold in the \$1.10 to \$2 range, so many were spent. One dollar was a lot of money in 1900 and some people did not want to tie up the money. As a result, circulated coins are very common. In fact, for MS66 (a very high grade) coin the Lafayette dollar currently lists in the 2020 Red Book as the highest price of all classic commemorative silver coins at \$11,000. Even the King of Commemoratives, the Hawaiian half dollar, only lists at \$5,750 in MS 66.

The coins did not raise that much money – at a guess around \$20,000, and much of that was spent on a lawsuit by Henry Hornbostel, who demanded fees for designing the pedestal for the Lafayette statue! Hornbostel (1867-1961) was a famous American architect who designed over 225 buildings, bridges, and monuments, of which 22 are listed in the National Registry of Historic Places.

Most of the money for the Lafayette statue came from the schoolchildren who contributed at a few cents each, hence the wording on the reverse: ERECTED•BY•THE•YOUTH•OF•THE•UNITED•STATES.



Lt. Gen. Lafayette in 1791. Portrait by Joseph-Désiré Court.

Marie Paul Jean Roch Ives Gilbert Motier Marquis de Lafayette.

What a long name! Lafayette was born into aristocracy in 1757. In 1759 his father died in battle against the British. His mother left him in Auvergne (in Southern France) with his grandmother. Aged 11, his mother had him sent to Paris. She sent him off to a musketeer officer training school. His family had a military tradition. Even at the age of 12, his annual income was 120,000 livres or 20,000 ecus (an ecu was a large silver coin about the size of a silver dollar with a face value of 6 livres i.e. \$20,000 a year aged 12). At that time in US the average laborer earned about \$150 a year. Aged 14 he was commissioned as a musketeer officer but also continued his other studies. Aged 18 he was made a Captain.

Aged 17 he married a lady his family had purposefully exposed him to, rather than betrothing him. The marriage was happy. There is a curious tendency to think that arranged marriages de facto must be terrible. But I have known people in arranged marriages who are perfectly happy. And I am not talking about forced marriages between a 10-year-old girl and an older man who forces her to have sex. Successful arranged marriages are typically between two people of similar social strata and age, often childhood friends.

In our culture we choose our marriage partners. But according to a 2012 study by Statistic Brain, the global divorce rate for arranged marriages was 6%, much lower than for free-choice marriages. When you come to think of it, families with their friends tend to know who is good and who is not. The last thing they want to do is commit their child to an unhappy marriage, so they are careful to choose a family that is a good family, and a union that will be financially equitable. In some ways it is like a dating service, but all done for you without the anxiety!

To get back to Lafayette! In 1776, after Britain defeated the French in the Seven Years' War (1756-1763), the French felt supplying arms and officers to America during the revolution might change the balance. The idealistic Lafayette wanted to help the American revolution. But because the Continental Congress would not vote the funds to pay his voyage, Lafayette bought his own ship "Victoire" for £112,000 (approximately \$400,000, and he certainly had the money!) and sailed to the US in 1777.

The Continental Congress attracted too many French officers who had no military experience and did not speak English. But Lafayette's freemasonry opened doors. He learnt English during his voyage and within a year was fluent. He offered to serve free, and with Benjamin Franklin's support Congress made him an honorary Major General. Washington met him in August 1777 and bonded with him immediately. Washington had no children with Martha just her two children from a previous marriage. Washington treated Lafayette like his own son, and the wealthy freemason was in awe of his cause.

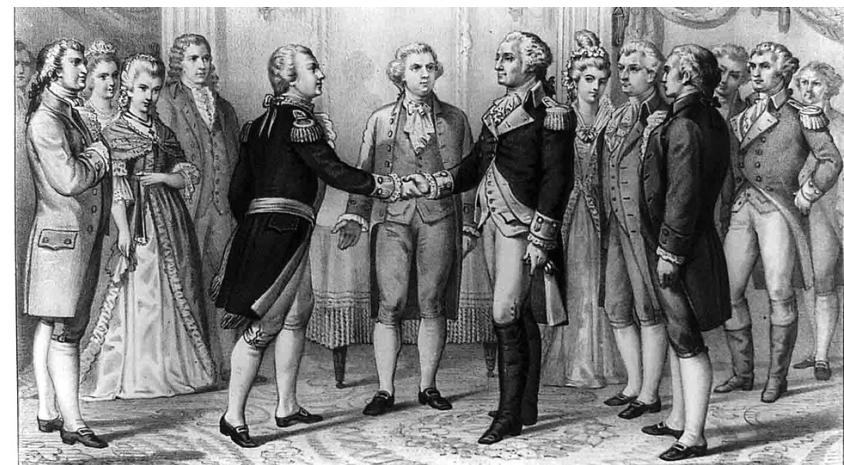
Lafayette's first battle was Brandywine in September 1777 where he was wounded in his leg, but despite his wounds he retreated and rallied American troops resulting in an orderly retreat. Washington then advocated for troops under Lafayette's command rather than just an honorary title. This happened in November 1777. American General Horatio Gates asked Lafayette to invade

Quebec from Albany, but when Lafayette arrived there he found too small a force. But despite recruiting Oneida Indians, he returned to Valley Forge feeling it was unwise to invade Quebec in the winter. Washington agreed.

Lafayette overwintered at Valley Forge with Washington 1777/8. In May 1778 the British evacuated Philadelphia and moved to New York City. Washington asked Lafayette to reconnoiter with 2,000 men. British General Howe got wind of this and attacked him with 11,000 men, but Lafayette outmaneuvered him by feigning superior forces while retreating.



Lafayette in uniform of Honorary Major General by Charles Wilson Peale.



THE FIRST MEETING OF WASHINGTON AND LAFAYETTE.

Philadelphia. August 3rd 1777.

While the British troops marched from Philadelphia to New York City, Lafayette joined Washington in the Monmouth Courthouse attack on British General Henry Clinton's rearguard in June 1778. American General Charles Lee gave conflicting orders which confused the American troops. Lafayette realized this and urged Washington to take over and rally the troops. Lee was later court-martialed. This was the battle that glorified Molly Pitcher, who bought water to the American troops. With temperatures over 100°, more died from heat exhaustion than bullets. However, most historians feel she was more fable than fact.

The French fleet arrived at Delaware Bay under Admiral d'Estaing in July 1778. Washington planned to attack the British in Newport, Rhode Island, and sent d'Estaing, General Nathanael Green and Lafayette with 3,000 men. But d'Estaing refused to help and left Newport to try to defeat the British fleet at sea. Instead he suffered storm damage and put in for repairs at Boston (to local boos).



John Ward Dunsmore's painting of Lafayette (right) & Washington at Valley Forge.

Lafayette left in January 1779 to go on leave to France. The French King, to save face, put him on house arrest for 8 days for disobeying orders not to leave France. But they were soon pals. Lafayette tried to persuade France to invade Britain, but the plan fizzled out. With Benjamin Franklin's help he got France to send 6,000 men under Gen. Rochambeau to America.

Lafayette returned to America arriving in April 1780. He met with Washington in May, when Washington had him write letters to request more French troops and provisions. Lafayette then patrolled northern New Jersey and New York State

with a division of troops without any action during the summer. Meanwhile the British had started to attack the south, called the "Southern Plan". Lafayette spent the winter of 1780-1781 in Philadelphia. In January 1781, after America's victory at Cowpens in South Carolina, Lafayette went to Virginia with the Prussian Baron von Steuben to try to trap the British under Benedict Arnold who had switched sides. Good try – but they did not capture him.



National Park Service Map of Washington's, Rochambeau's and Cornwallis' movements in 1781.

In June 1781 London told Lord Cornwallis to construct a port in Chesapeake Bay as a base to attack Philadelphia. As the British travelled from the south Lafayette

constantly harassed their rearguard. In July Lafayette ordered American General Anthony Wayne with 800 men to attack the British hiding in a forest on the Virginia peninsula. Wayne did very well and this encouraged American troops. Cornwallis established a port at Yorktown to provide a place for the British fleet to land. But the French fleet intercepted the British fleet, so Cornwallis, who had expected to evacuate from there, was stuck (more accurately, screwed!) Washington closed in. Two important British redoubts were taken. Number 9 was taken by Lafayette, and number 10 by Lt. Col. Alexander Hamilton, both with a lot of hand to hand fighting. This was key to breaking the British defenses.

Lafayette left for France in December 1781, arriving a month later in Paris. It is interesting how we now regard travel times because of planes. In fact, four to five weeks to travel from Boston to Paris was not that long. As a child I lived in Hong Kong in 1950s with my parents, and when my father's military tour of duty was over we sailed back from Hong Kong to UK. As far as I recall the journey took us around six weeks. Things had not changed that much in 200 years!

At any rate, when he arrived in France, Lafayette was given a hero's welcome and promoted to French Major General and knighted. He was only 25 at the time.



[Lafayette and Washington at Mount Vernon 1784 by Rossiter and Mignot.](#)

After the Treaty of Paris which gave America independence in 1783, Lafayette visited the US in 1784, receiving an honorary degree from Harvard and US citizenship. He visited Washington and tried to get him to emancipate his slaves as he had joined a French abolitionist group. Lafayette did not succeed, but Washington left instructions in his will to emancipate his slaves. When he died in 1799, 123 slaves were emancipated.

In 1789 Lafayette was elected member of the Estates General during the French Revolution. He helped write the French Constitution, imitating the American

constitution. After the storming of the Bastille, he was made Commander-in-Chief of the National Guard. Lafayette steered a middle course, believing in Constitutional Monarchy with a democratic National Assembly.

In 1792 radicals ordered his arrest. So he fled to the Austrian Netherlands where troops imprisoned him, as King Frederick William II of Prussia saw him as an anti-Royalist.

Five years later when Napoleon came to power he got him released. After the Bourbon restoration in 1814, Lafayette served in the Chamber of Deputies, the lower chamber of the French parliament.

In 1824, President James Monroe invited him to tour all 24 states to a rapturous reception. This was in preparation for the 50th anniversary of American Independence in 1826. Monroe asked Congress to vote him a gift of \$200,000 for his services.

In 1830, French King Charles X was overthrown, and Lafayette was offered the dictatorship of France. He instead supported Charles' cousin Louis-Philippe to become king, but later opposed him when he became autocratic.

When Lafayette died in 1834 at the age of 77, his death was mourned in France, but inordinately mourned in America, where his death seemed second only to Washington's.

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US COMMEMORATIVE \$1/2, ALABAMA CENTENNIAL 1921 2X2. BIBB & KILBY / EAGLE 30.6MM, 12.5 GRAMS UNC

1178

CHAPTER EIGHT

13 Coins about states. CC9

Alabama Centennial 1921.

Background

Mrs. Marie Owen, Chairperson of the Alabama Centennial Commission had been sponsoring activities in 1919 and 1920 for the celebration of the State's Centennial. Then she suddenly found out about the rest of America taking advantage of the commemorative coin program. So she jumped on the band wagon, despite being one year too late. Congress lamely obliged voting 100,000 coins on May 20th, 1920.

The Coin.

The obverse shows the left-facing conjugate busts of Kilby in the foreground, and Bibb in the background – more about them later. There are 12 stars in a block on the left and 10 on the right of the busts, plagiarizing the Missouri half dollar which had a block of 12 stars on each side of the reverse figures. (The Missouri plasters were approved March 4th, 1921. The Alabama plasters were approved in May 1921). Some coins have an incuse 2X2 above the right stars. The legend BIBB is below Bibb's bust and KILBY is below Kilby's, with 1921 between the two names. The legend above reads UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and IN GOD WE TRVST, and below reads HALF DOLLAR.

The reverse shows the Alabama state seal: an eagle perched on four arrows facing left, holding a ribbon in its beak with the state motto "HERE WE REST". Behind all this is a US shield. The legend above is STATE OF ALABAMA, and below is 1819 CENTENNIAL 1919. Between 3 and 4 o'clock by the rim is the monogram LGF for Laura Gardin Fraser.

Introduction of the coin.

Mrs. Owen, Alabama Centennial Commission Chairperson, initially wrote to Governor Kilby suggesting images of President James Monroe and President Woodrow Wilson, Presidents respectively in 1819 and 1919. The Commission had to confirm the suitability of all proposed coin designs. Frank Spangler, a newspaper cartoonist in Montgomery, Alabama, then did sketches of Monroe and Wilson with the date 1920 and the State Capitol on the reverse.

Not surprisingly the sketches were cartoonish rather than professional. James Fraser, sole sculptor member of the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), rejected the design, saying buildings (here, the State Capitol) do not make good coin designs. But in 1920 President Warren Harding was elected and the Democratic South, including Alabama, did not want a Republican on their coin.

After a lot of foot-dragging on June 28th, 1921, Mrs. Owen proposed Kilby and Bibb, the Alabama governors in 1819 and 1919, and had sketches submitted to the Commission on Fine Arts (CFA). James Fraser passed the commission to Laura, his wife, without bids and without thinking of the 1866 prohibition against sculpting living images on coins (which Anthony Swiatek points out in his 2001 book was only meant to be applied to paper money).

Two varieties were made by adding a 2X2 incuse on the coin. This represented the 22nd state to enter the union, and the X represented the St. Andrew's flag, which was the Alabama state flag. This subterfuge was suggested by James Earle Fraser who saw that it sold more coins with the recent Missouri Centennial coin with their 2*4 device.

In October 1921, 6,000 coins were struck, supposedly according to Mint records with 2X2. However, Swiatek in his 2001 book says that an eye witness, John H. Morris Jr., bought plain not 2X2 coins in October suggesting that the 6,000 were plain not 2X2.

At any rate, the 2X2 was then supposed to have been ground off the master die, so that the die was flat in that area, and the rest struck as plain coins without the incuse 2x2. Perhaps there was no master die, perhaps just a single die. (In the 1800s the large Morgan dollar size coins got up to a million coins from a single die, so with an authorization of 100,000 there would have been no need for a master die and hub).

It is said that in December 1921 10,000 more 2X2 coins were struck, then the die ground down, and 54,000 plain coins minted. There is some confusion about the numbers, but after melting, net distribution was 49,000 or 59,000 plain coins, and 6,000 or 15,000 2x2 coins. Most buyers were Alabamans and non-numismatists. This issue is too boring to merit much more detail.

The men: Bibb and Kilby.

William Bibb (1780 – 1820) attended William and Mary College, Williamsburg, Virginia and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with an MD in 1801. (I went to medical school and by the time I was finished with residencies I was 29 not 20 – things change!). Bibb entered politics in 1803, and in 1813 was a US senator. He was made Territorial Governor of Alabama in 1816, and State Governor in 1819. He died in 1820 after falling from a horse.

Thomas E. Kilby (1865 – 1943) was born in Tennessee, and became an agent of the Georgia-Pacific Railroad in Alabama. Later he went into business and in 1905 served as Democratic Mayor of Anniston, Alabama. In 1911 he was elected US Senator from Alabama. In 1915 he became the Lieutenant Governor of Alabama, and in 1919 the Governor of Alabama. Perhaps he is most famed for being the first living person to appear on a US coin.



William Bibb

Thomas Kilby

(See next section for references).



Alabama State seal



US COMMEMORATIVE \$ 1/2, ARKANSAS CENTENNIAL 1937 S. EAGLE / US GIRL & INDIAN 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS UNC

246



US COMMEMORATIVE \$ 1/2, ARKANSAS CENTENNIAL SEN. JOSEPH ROBINSON 1936. ROBINSON / EAGLE 30.6MM, 12.5 GRAMS UNC

1348

13 Coins about states. CC25 and 26.

Arkansas Centennial 1935–1939, and Arkansas/Robinson 1936.

Background

State exploitation of US commemorative coins was in full swing so when Arkansas asked for a commemorative for their 1836 admission as a state they got sets from all three mints for five years! On May 14th, 1934 Congress authorized 500,000 half dollars. Not only that, on June 26th, 1936, they got another law passed to make 50,000 more with Sen. Robinson's bust on (he was still living at the time)!

The coin.

The obverse shows the conjoined heads of a Quapaw Native American from Arkansas in 1836, and a young girl from Arkansas in 1936 wearing a Phrygian liberty cap with LIBERTY on. She has a garland of unidentified leaves. Feathers from the Native American's headdress extend behind liberty. The date 1836 is by the Native American and 1936 by Liberty. The message: it was Native American, now it is white! The legend below reads ARKANSAS CENTENNIAL.

The reverse shows an eagle standing on the sun (ouch!) with rays, on which is superimposed a diamond of stars around its border (25 in all as on the equally ugly state flag). The eagle holds a ribbon in its beak which spreads horizontally across the coin with the inscriptions IN GOD WE TRUST and E PLURIBUS UNUM, nicely addressing Congress' mandatory verbiage.



Arkansas State flag.

Also within the center of the diamond again imitating the state flag is ARKANSAS with one large star above and three smaller stars below. The three lower stars represent the area being under Spain, France and US, and also being the third state to come out of the Louisiana purchase. The large star at top represents Arkansas as part of the Confederacy. The largest star on top suggests the South will rise again. But wait! There is even more symbolism on this ugly monstrosity! The seven rays are the original seceding states of the Confederacy, and the six shorter rays represent the six other states that joined the Confederacy later. The designer, Burr, actually spelled all this out in a letter to the CFA.

Introducing the coin.

The Arkansas Honorary Centennial Celebration Commission (later thankfully shortened to Arkansas Centennial Commission) wanted money for celebrations in Little Rock for the centennial of becoming a state. It was also the 75th anniversary of their joining the Confederacy, but that could not be aired in Congress! On May 14th, 1934 Congress duly authorized 500,000 half dollars.

Then the discussion between the Commission of Fine Arts and the artists started. Edward Everett Burr, a Chicago artist who had studios in Little Rock, Arkansas, sent in his designs for the coin. The CFA rejected the first design on July 26th, 1934. A.W. Parke, Arkansas Centennial Commission secretary asked CFA how the design could be improved. CFA did not reply. So Parke got Arkansas Sen Caraway to write to the CFA (sounds seedy!). CFA replied on Aug 31st: "CFA does not attempt to undertake to tell an artist how he should deign a medal, but believe an artist must show his ability in making designs. The Commission would like to have an artist submit models of a new design. Very respectfully yours".

In February 1935 Lee Lawrie, the only sculptor member of CFA, wrote detailed instructions to Emily Bates, who sculpted the models, as to how to change the design as the Arkansas Commission flatly refused to change it. Emily Bates, an Arkansas sculptress worked under the famous Lorado Taft in Chicago.

In 1936, when the Texas Centennial Commission floated a bill for five new reverses for the half dollar, the Arkansas Commission pushed for three new reverses. This was taking abuses of the commemorative program to new heights. The Texas bill failed, but Arkansas managed to get one new reverse, - Sen. Robinson, designed and sculpted by Henry Kreis, and approved by CFA December 23rd, 1936. Kreis did the 1935 Connecticut Tercentenary, and the 1936 Bridgeport Centennial half dollars. At least Kreis was a decent sculptor.

Vermeule is particularly scathing about the design and execution of the 1935 Arkansas coin saying: "Liberty resembles a chinless society girl of the 1920's, and the Indian is either a weak death mask or a man in a trance. This combination and its formless, pseudo-modern style are flaccid and senseless, an attempt to make Liberty look either like a contemporary department store model or, at best, like a redskin's squaw! The reverse is a jumble of spikes, lines, and curves; the state symbolism is so obscure as to be pointless." The finish of the Arkansas coins was described as "greasy" and unattractive to collectors.

The Commission sold 1935s directly at \$1 each. In 1936 they travelled around trying to get agents to sell them. Thus it was called the "orphan issue" because you could buy them anywhere except Arkansas. B. Max Mehl, the famous coin dealer, marketed them in 1936, and Stack's Coins marketed them in 1937.

The quantities distributed were:

1935	13,000 P	5,500 D	5,500 S initially selling \$1 each
1936	9,650 P	9,650 D	9,650 S \$1 for P, \$1.50 for D & S
1937	5,500 P	5,500 D	5,500 S initially selling \$8.75 a set
1938	3,150 P	3,150 D	3,150 S initially selling \$8.75 a set
1939	2,100 P	2,100 D	2,100 S initially selling \$10 a set

(P is Philadelphia Mint, D is Denver Mint, S is San Francisco Mint.)

The Arkansas, Boone, Oregon, and Texas Centennial coins with multiple years of issue did most to implant a sour taste in Congress' and the public's mouth. This lead to the 1939 Act revoking all previous commemorative Acts which specially noted the Arkansas coin.

Joe T. Robinson (1872-1937) a lawyer, became a US Representative in 1903, and Governor of Arkansas in 1913. He resigned to become US Senator in 1913. He was naturally a Democrat, as in those days the South was strongly Democratic. He supported Woodrow Wilson, and became Senate Minority Leader in 1923. In 1928 he was nominated for Vice-President, but lost to Herbert Hoover. In 1932 he became Senate Majority Leader when the Democrats controlled the Senate. He was a great orator and debater, fiercely loyal, and paid great attention to detail. He was very supportive of FDR. He died of heart failure in 1937.



Joe Robinson with President Franklin D. Roosevelt in Washington 1933.



Joe Robinson with Ambassador Sir Ronald Hendrew and Grover Whalen of NYC.

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US COMMEMORATIVE \$ 1/2, CALIFORNIA DIAMOND JUBILEE 1925 S. FORTY-NINER / GRIZZLY BEAR 30.6MM, 12.5 GRAMS UNC

1346

13 Coins about states. CC15.

California Diamond Jubilee 1925.

Background.

In 1925 the San Francisco Citizens Committee, Chairman Angelo J Rossi planned a commemorative coin. He ended up with three, one being the California Diamond Jubilee – the seventy-fifth anniversary of the State of California.

The Coin.

The obverse shows a prospector kneeling left panning for gold. The inscription is just above his pan, which he seems to be looking at: IN GOD WE TRUST. The legend above is LIBERTY. The ground forms the exergual line. In the exergue is ▼ CALIFORNIA'S • DIAMOND ▼ | ▼ JUBILEE ▼ | 1925.

The reverse shows the California grizzly bear walking on all fours left. The legend above is E PLURIBUS UNUM. The ground forms the exergual line. In the exergue is ▼ UNITED • STATES ▼ | OF • AMERICA | ▼ | HALF DOLLAR | S (mintmark for San Francisco Mint). The California grizzly bear also features on the Bay Bridge commemorative half dollar of 1936.

Introducing the coin.

Senator Samuel Short ridge (R.-Cal.) and Representative John Raker (D.-Cal.) pushed a bill through the US Senate and House for the 1925 Vancouver coin. But the Mint asked Representative Albert Vestal, who was on the House Coinage Committee to oppose the bill. However, President Coolidge, originally from Vermont, badly wanted a Vermont commemorative coin. After all, he could be the one to veto the Act. So Baker countered by adding the California Jubilee coin. For this reason, the Act that passed on 24th February, 1925 included authorization for three different commemorative coins. 300,000 Jubilee coins were authorized.

Jo Mora was a sculptor living in Carmel. The San Francisco Committee chose the design and asked Mora to sketch them. The Commission of Fine Art (CFA) received them on May 8th, 1925. James Fraser, the only CFA sculptor member, called the design inexperienced and amateurish and the bear too short and recommended another sculptor. The Citizen's Committee ignored his advice. Looking at the initial sketches that Jo Mora sent, I can absolutely see they were the sketchiest of sketches, and very unprofessional. They are shown on page 104 in Taxay's book. The lettering was incomplete, and the circle was not even round!

Certainly, Mora did a good job eventually. In the 1930s David Bullowa, who studied commemoratives for the American Numismatic Association called it "a very virile and well executed half dollar". B. Max Mehl, the famous coin dealer called it "my favorite coin". Vermeule said it is "one of America's greatest works of numismatic art". Superficially it looks like James Fraser just did not make the right call. But if you see Mora's sketches you will understand.

Jo Mora (1876 – 1947) came to the US as a youth with his Uruguayan father, also a sculptor. He studied at the Art Students League in New York City and elsewhere. He illustrated books, sculpted, wrote, painted dioramas, did cartoons, photography, spent time as a cowboy, and lived with the Hopi. He is famous for a sculptural group "Cervantes Monument" in the Golden Gate Park.



Jo Mora's Cervantes Monument in Golden Gate Park.

The Mint reduced Mora's models to working dies in July 1925, and 150,200 coins were struck in the San Francisco Mint in August 1925. The coins were sold through the San Francisco Clearing House and its sister, the Los Angeles Clearing

House, at \$1 each. In a pageant on September 6th – 12th 1925 in San Francisco, tens of thousands of coins sold to the general public. Numismatists also liked them and snapped them up.

As usual too many were minted, and 63,606 were returned to the mint for remelting for a net distribution of 86,594. Most coins look lustrous. But the high points, especially the bear's shoulders and miner's sleeve often shows wear. Some coins from highly polished dies look proof-like. One matte proof without an S was likely made at the Philadelphia mint for Sinnock, before they punched the S into the die and shipped it to San Francisco. John Sinnock was the eighth Chief Engraver of the US Mint from 1925 to 1947.

A brief history of California.

The first white man to see California in 1542-3 was the explorer Juan Cabrillo, (1499-1543) working for Spain. Above San Diego is Alta California, and below is Baja California.



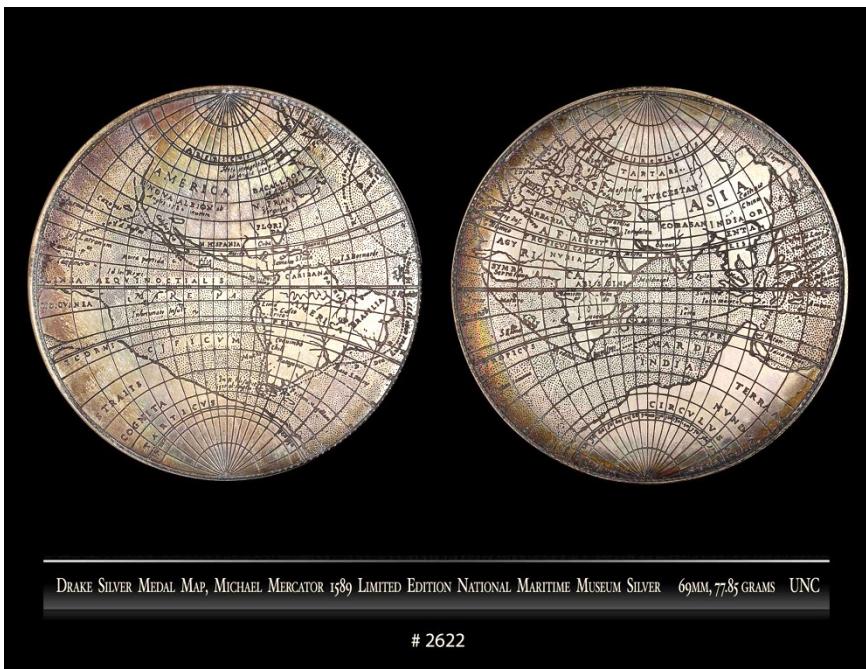
Juan Cabrillo



Sir Francis Drake

Sir Francis Drake (1540-1596) visited California in 1579, near Point Reyes, north of San Francisco and claimed the region for Queen Elizabeth I. Drake was famous for throwing down his cloak so that Queen Elizabeth did not have to walk in a puddle! In his ship, Golden Hind, he returned to England after raiding Spanish galleons and circumnavigating the globe. His biggest prize was the Concepcion, which had 80 lbs. of gold and 26 tons of silver! The Queen's half-share of the booty exceeded her annual income from all other sources that year!

In 1769, Friar Gaspar de Portola established the first mission and presidio in Alta California in San Diego. In 1770 the Spaniards established a second mission at Monterey which became the capital of Alta California. These territories were part of the Viceroyalty of New Spain. In 1804 the official split was made between Alta and Baja California.



A British Museum copy of the medal given to Drake on his return in 1580.

In 1819 the Adams-Onis Treaty established the 42nd parallel as the upper border of Spain's California.



Treaty of Adams-Onis limiting Spain's claims in North America to 42nd parallel.

In 1821, Mexico gained its independence from Spain so the territory became Mexican. In 1846 US whites living in the area started the Bear Flag Revolt. In June 1846 General Vallejo's presidio at Sonoma surrendered to a small US force. The force had constructed a flag with a bear on signifying independence, hence the Bear Flag Revolt. Capt. Frémont, the senior US military person in the area, was asked to be their leader. This became the Republic of California.

The 1846-8 Mexican-American War concluded with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Under the terms of the treaty Alta California was transferred to US for \$15 million. At the time it had a population of 85,000 many of whom were Americans. It should be born in mind that Alta California included what is now California, Nevada, and Utah; and also significant parts of Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico (see map).

On 24th January 1848 James Marshal found gold at Sutter's Mill (this was only one week before the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2nd!) What followed was the greatest human exodus since the crusades. Within one year 100,000 people had moved to California called the "49ers". The territorial government started December 1849. Within three months in March 1850 California applied for Statehood, which was granted on September 9th 1850.



USA with areas in white representing Texas and Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

By 1860 the population was almost 400,000. Today it is almost 40 million.

Statista.com gives figures for the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of nations for 2017 in \$ Trillions:

Country	\$ Trillion
Global	75 approx.
US	19.4
China	11.9
Japan	4.9
Germany	3.7
France	2.6
UK	2.6
India	2.4
Brazil	2.1
Italy	1.9
Canada	1.6

California, if it were a nation would come fifth! Their annual GDP is \$2.8 Trillion.

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CONNECTICUT TERCENTENARY 1935 COMMEM \$1/2. EAGLE/CHARTER OAK. 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS PCGS MS 65

1443

13 Coins about states. CC24.

Connecticut Tercentenary 1935.

Background

The Connecticut Tercentennial Commission asked for a commemorative in 1934 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the founding of their state. They made one issue of the coin in 1935, behaving in an exemplary manner unlike so many other Commissions.

The coin.

The obverse shows the Charter Oak, with the legend IN GOD WE TRUST and LIBERTY above. An inscription in the right field says THE CHARTER OAK. The ground forms the exergue. In the exergue is CONNECTICUT | 1635 – 1935.

The reverse shows a modernistic eagle standing on a rock, which the sculptor, Kreis, used again for the 1936 Bridgeport commemorative. The legend above is UNITED STATES OF AMERICA with 13 small stars below (Connecticut was one of the original 13 states), and HALF DOLLAR below. The inscription in the left field is E PLURIBUS UNUM.

Introducing the coin.

Representative Francis T. Maloney introduced the bill into Congress on March 25th, 1934 requesting 10,000 pieces. The Coinage, Weights, and Measures Committee approved the bill with an increase to 25,000 pieces and a requirement that the federal government incur no expense in making the models. It was the middle of the great depression. The bill passed the Senate June 13th, and was signed into law by FDR June 21st.

The Tercentenary Commission head Samuel Fisher, a lawyer, hired Henry Kreis to do the models under the supervision of Paul Manship, a famous medalist. Interestingly Fisher did this under the Public Works Administration, so that the federal government ended up paying for it anyway!

Kreis (1899-1963) also did the 1936 Robinson Arkansas, and the 1936 Bridgeport Centennial coins. He also did famous sculptures on the Department of Justice building in Washington, D.C., and had studios in Essex, CT, and taught at Hartford.

Paul Manship (1865-1966) started painting in art school but discovered he was color blind so he turned to sculpting and line drawing commercial illustrations and became a famous medalist. He sculpted the art deco Prometheus Fountain at the Rockefeller Center, New York City.

Kreis' models were photographed and sent to the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA). Lee Laurie, the sole sculptor member, complained that the eagle's head and feet looked like a hawk, and the stars were too small. But ultimately CFA approved them December 6th, 1934. The models were sent to the Medallic Art Company, New York City for reduction to dies.



Painting "The Charter Oak" by Charles Brownell 1857 – the model for Kreis' coin.



Prometheus Fountain at Rockefeller Center by Paul Manship.

Not surprisingly, there was a debate as to which die was obverse. Usually, the obverse is the head or ruler and date, and reverse had the denomination. But



US STATE QUARTER CONNECTICUT 1999 P, FROM CHANGE. 24.3MM, 5.67 GRAMS UNC

State Quarter Program starting 1999 included Connecticut quarter with Charter Oak.

with problematic coins the mint often decides. Historically the obverse is the good die which is done by a superior engraver, and in the days of hammered coinage was fixed, so it lasted longer. David Bullowa found the eagle was the obverse in mint records, but today the oak is usually considered the obverse. In April and May, 1935, 25,018 coins were struck (18 for assay). Most sold to Connecticut citizens at \$1. By July the Commission was sold out.

A charter gave a colony a legal existence under the crown. Charles I (1625-1649) gave Massachusetts Bay Colony their charter in 1629. Charles II (1660-1685) gave Connecticut its own royal charter in 1662. It gave an unusual degree of autonomy. James II (1685-8) decided the colonies had too much autonomy and revoked their charters, substituting the "Dominion of New England". He sent over Sir Edmund Andros as the English Governor General in 1686 with orders to remove the charters of Massachusetts and Connecticut.

When Andros came to Connecticut he demanded the charter be handed over. So the story goes, it was produced but suddenly the lights went out, and it was passed through a window to a Captain Joseph Wadsworth. Wadsworth hid it in a cavity about two feet off the ground in an unusually large oak on Wyllys Hill in Hartford. The tree then became known as Charter Oak. The trunk later grew to 25' circumference. It was destroyed in a storm in 1856. A white marble slab now adorns the spot, and the Connecticut Historical Society holds the Charter.

Andros was also interested in the Massachusetts pine tree coins that were still being minted. However New Englanders had cleverly fixed the date at 1652, during the British interregnum so they could not hang minters for striking coins for which they had no authority. Minting coins was a royal prerogative.



MASSACHUSETTS SILVER SMALL PINE TREE SHILLING TREE / 1652 XII. 1675-82. SALMON 2-B; 25MM, 4.44 GRAMS VF

503

Notice the date 1652. Actually these were minted 1675-1682.



Sir Edmund Andros, painted by successful female painter Mary Beale.



1800s engraving of arrest of Andros by Boston mob in 1689.

Andros was later thrown out by an angry mob in 1689 in the Boston revolt. In 1688, the Protestant King William III had displaced the unpopular King James II, who was trying to reinstate Catholicism in England. Andros had enforced the restrictive Navigation Acts, invalidated land titles, restricted town meetings and promoted the Church of England. (Massachusetts was nonconformist territory). Bostonians arrested Andros and held him before returning him to England.

In 1691, William III gave a new charter to the merged Plymouth Colony and Massachusetts Bay called the Province of Massachusetts Bay.

The 1662, Connecticut Charter was different from the Connecticut Constitution. John Fiske, a popular Connecticut historian in 1800s claimed Connecticut's 1638-9 Fundamental Orders were the first written constitution in history. Connecticut license plates have the label "Constitution State".



License plate on my wife's car. Notice Constitution State is upside down!

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TERCENTENARY OF SWEDES LANDING IN DELAWARE 1936 COMMEM \$1/2 CHURCH/KALMAR NYCKEL; 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS PCGS MS 65

1340

13 Coins about states. CC42.

Delaware Tercentennial 1936.

Background

In 1936 the Delaware Swedish Tercentenary Commission planned to celebrate the landing of Swedes in Delaware in 1638, and wanted a souvenir half dollar. They took no chances so started early! They mounted a contest for the design, to be judged by John Sinnock, Chief Mint Engraver from 1925 to 1948, and a famous sculptor, Robert MacKenzie. The meager prize was \$500. Most sculptors would not even do such a commission for less than \$1,000 – \$2,000, so putting in all that work just in case you won was impressive.

The coin.

The obverse shows the “Old Sweden Church” at Wilmington dedicated in 1698, said to be the oldest Protestant church still standing and in continuous use. Above are clouds with the sun’s rays poking through underneath (bespeaking divine protection not rain!) The legend above is UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and below is HALF DOLLAR. The ground forms a partial exergual line, below which is the inscription IN GOD WE TRUST | 1936.

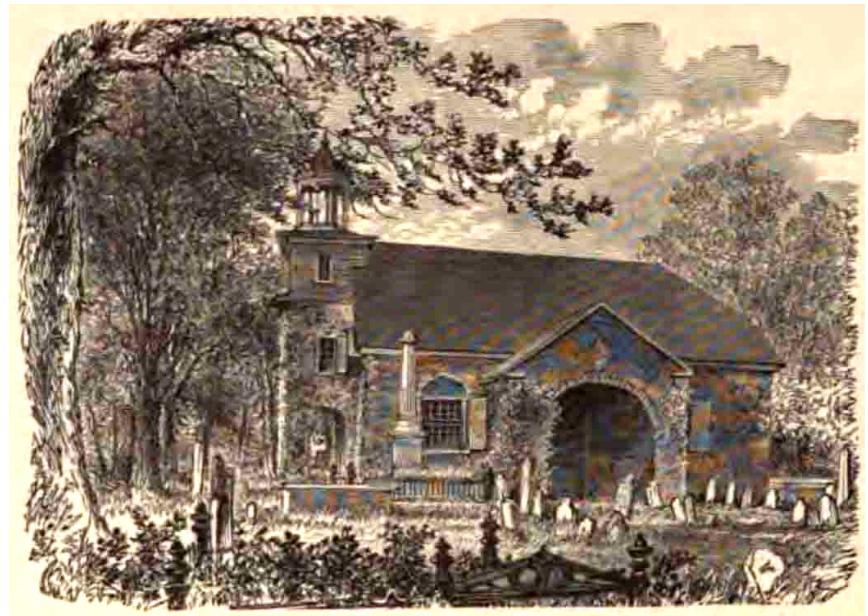
The reverse shows the ship *Kalmar Nyckel* (meaning Key of Kalmar, a port in Sweden) taken from a model in Sweden copying the original ship, which is still in the Swedish Naval Museum. I cannot find the ship on their website. The flags have Swedish crosses on them (see picture). The ship is in full sail west on the sea. To the right field is CLS in incuse for the winner of the design competition, Carl L. Schmitz. The sea forms a partial exergual line below which is E PLURIBUS UNUM and LIBERTY. The legends above are DELAWARE TERCENTENARY, and below ♦ 1638 ♦ 1938 ♦. The three diamonds apparently symbolize the three counties of Delaware, which Thomas Jefferson described as a “jewel” among states due to its strategic location on the Eastern Seaboard, leading to the unofficial nickname “Diamond State”.

Introduction of the coin.

On May 15th, 1936 Congress approved a bill for 25,000 half dollars at a single mint dated 1936. Interestingly, bills for the Bridgeport and Wisconsin commemorative half dollar were passed on the same day.

The Commission chose Carl I. Schmitz out of 40 contestants in November 1936. He was born in Metz, then part of Germany, but now part of France. He studied in Munich, then immigrated to America in 1923. He won many awards as a sculptor. The design was shown to Lee Lawrie, sole sculptor member of the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), who said the design was excellent (though I have to say I agree with James Earle Fraser that buildings seldom do well on coins and this church looks a little simplistic to me).

Once approved by CFA on December 14th 1936, Schmitz’s identity was then publicized. Models were sent to the Medallic Art Company in New York City for their reducing lathe, then the dies went to the Philadelphia Mint.



OLD SWEDES CHURCH, WILMINGTON, DEL.
ERECTED IN 1698.

Frontispiece from Papers of Historical Soc. Of Delaware IX Published by
Historical Society of Delaware 1890.



Kalmar Nyckel by Jacob Hagg painted 1922.

In March 1937 the Mint struck 25,015 coins (15 for assay) ready for the 1938 celebrations. Ultimately 4,022 did not sell and were re-melted for a net distribution of 20,003 coins. Although the mint was usually a stickler for dating commemorative coins on the exact year of their striking, in this case the die was dated 1936, but the Mint struck the coins in 1937 anyway.

The Mint said the obverse was the church side. The Commission said the obverse was the ship side. The Mint won! Some coins were struck with highly polished dies and are proof-like. These were probably presentation pieces, which sell at a premium.

The Commission sold the coins for \$1.75 through the Equitable Trust Company of Wilmington. The tercentenary was celebrated primarily by those of Swedish descent in Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Sweden itself in 1938.

Sweden also produced a two-kronor coin with King Gustav V on the obverse and *Kalmar Nyckel* on the reverse with NOVAE SUECIAE SUECIA MEMOR (Sweden remembering New Sweden) - not a handsome coin. They struck 500,000, and some were sold by the Delaware Commission for \$1 and used to fund the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia. Both Sweden and the US struck many other commemorative medals for the event.



Sweden 2 Kronor 1938 King Gustav with Crowned Kalmar Nickel.

History of New Sweden.

The New Sweden Company included both Swedish and Dutch directors. The Dutchman, Peter Minuit, was commander of the ships *Kalmar Nyckel* and *Fogel Grip* (Swedish for bird griffin). He had been the Director General of the Dutch New Netherlands from 1626 to 1631. The Netherlands dismissed him so he offered his services to Sweden. In 1637, he took around fifty settlers to a colony on the Delaware River, arriving in 1638 at "The Rocks", where they built Fort Christina, named after the eleven-year old Queen, daughter of King Gustav Adolph II. Fort Christina was in present day Wilmington, Delaware.

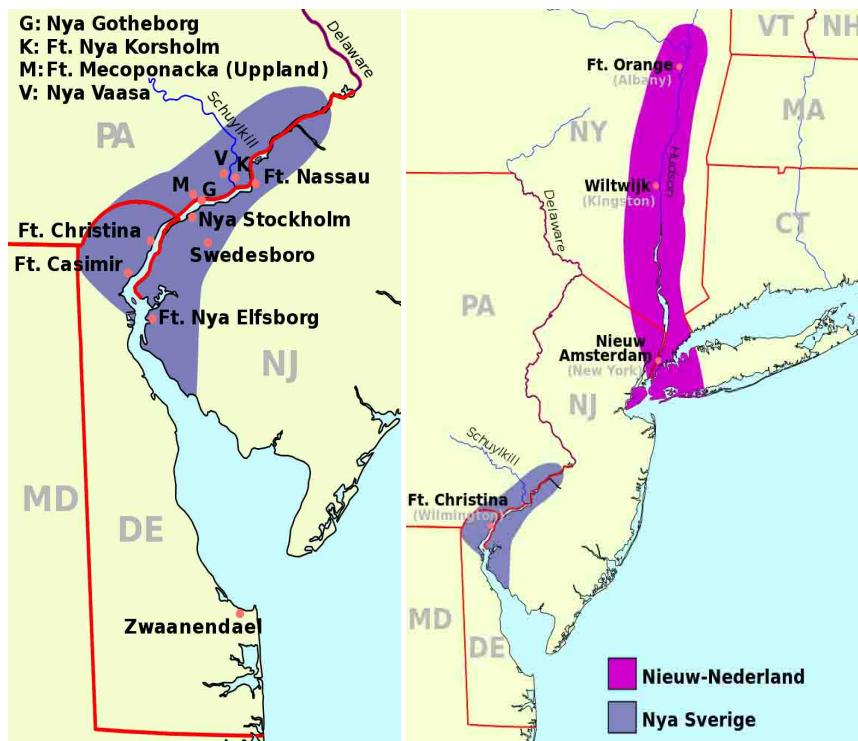
King Gustav Adolf II innovated tactical integration of infantry, cavalry, logistics and artillery, and is felt by many to be the innovator of modern warfare. Breen and Swiatek in their 1981 book (see references) comment that Christina was extremely intellectual, never married and had an unaccommodatingly lesbian lifestyle.

On Minuit's return voyage, his ship at the time full of furs, stopped to trade for tobacco in the West Indies, but was the ship was destroyed in a storm. He was never heard of again. But the *Kalmar Nyckel* had remained safe in harbor.



Replica of Kalmar Nyckel made in Delaware 1986. Deck is 94' by 25'.

For four years, the fifty men traded fur, then in 1642 New Sweden claimed the area shown left below.



Left map shows Forts Christina, New Gothenburg, and Casimir. Right map shows New Netherland controlled area and New Sweden controlled area 1650s.

In 1643, Governor Johan Printz (who weighed 400 pounds!) came with 100 more men and built Fort Elfsborg and Fort New Gothenburg (see above). New Sweden grew because the Dutch were so preoccupied with the Native Americans they could not fight New Sweden too. But in 1651 the Dutchman, Peter Stuyvesant, marched against them with 120 soldiers. The Swedes refused to surrender so the Dutch moved its Fort Nassau in New Jersey lock stock and barrel, five miles below Fort New Gothenburg, and called it Fort Casimir. This cut off Swedish access to the mouth of the Delaware River.

Printz then left for Sweden to get help to dislodge the Dutch who prevented trading. But meanwhile, a new Swedish Governor, Johan Rising, arrived in 1654. He demanded the Dutch Fort Casimir surrender. It had to. It was out of gunpowder!

Next year Peter Stuyvesant arrived with seven ships and 700 men. They meant business. There were no casualties but Swedes had to accept Dutch rule or be shipped home.

In 1664 the British Duke of York took the Dutch New Amsterdam, so any remaining Swedes became British subjects. In 1682 the British transferred the area of

Delaware to William Penn. Maryland disputed this until 1750. In 1776 Delaware became one of the newly independent States in the United States. It became the first of the thirteen states to ratify the constitution in 1787.



Left Peter Minuit, right Peter Stuyvesant.

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1918 ILLINOIS CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE HALF DOLLAR LINCOLN/EAGLE. 12.5 GRAMS, 30.6MM MS64

1183

13 Coins about states. CC5

Illinois Centennial 1918.

Background

It is tempting to say this commemorative is about Lincoln, but it is not. It celebrates the centennial of Illinois' admission to the Union in 1818.

The coin.

The obverse shows a youthful bust of Lincoln facing right taken from the statue by Andrew O'Connor of Springfield. Below the truncation is 1918. In the right field is LIBERTY. In the left field is IN GOD WE TRUST. The legend is CENTENNIAL•OF•THE• STATE• OF•ILLINOIS. Inside the raised border is a ring of alternating beads and pellets. Interestingly this was a classical device, used in ancient Greek coins with a ring of alternating double beads and reel (i.e. cylinder) called a "fillet border", often seen on Ancient Seleucid coins. The obverse of the coin below shows such borders. These borders were often used in classical times as architectural decorations.



Within the same rim of beads and pellets the Illinois reverse shows an eagle landing or about to fly, facing left to the West (where people were emigrating from the east for more land). The eagle is standing with its left talons on a rocky crag, and its right talons on a US shield, with olive branches for peace on each side. How do we know they are olive not laurel leaves? The two leaves look almost identical on a coin, but laurel is usually used as a wreath for victory or

the winner (as in "laureate"). Olive leaves are usually used in a branch representing peace (as in "extending an olive branch"). Laurel leaves are slightly fatter and shorter – think bay leaves, but you usually cannot tell the difference on a coin.



Olive leaves, longer and narrower - usually branches symbolizing peace.



Laurel leaves shorter, fatter, usually wreath symbolizing victory.

American coins usually have arrows too, but in this case there are none, presumably because it was 1918, right at the end of the catastrophic First World War. Seven million civilians and ten million soldiers died. In the right field is a rising sun with rays, one of which intersects the inscription E PLURIBUS UNUM. The eagle holds a ribbon in its beak which reads NATIONAL UNION STATE SOVEREIGNTY (the Illinois State motto). The legend reads UNITED•STATES•OF•AMERICA above and • HALF DOLLAR • below.



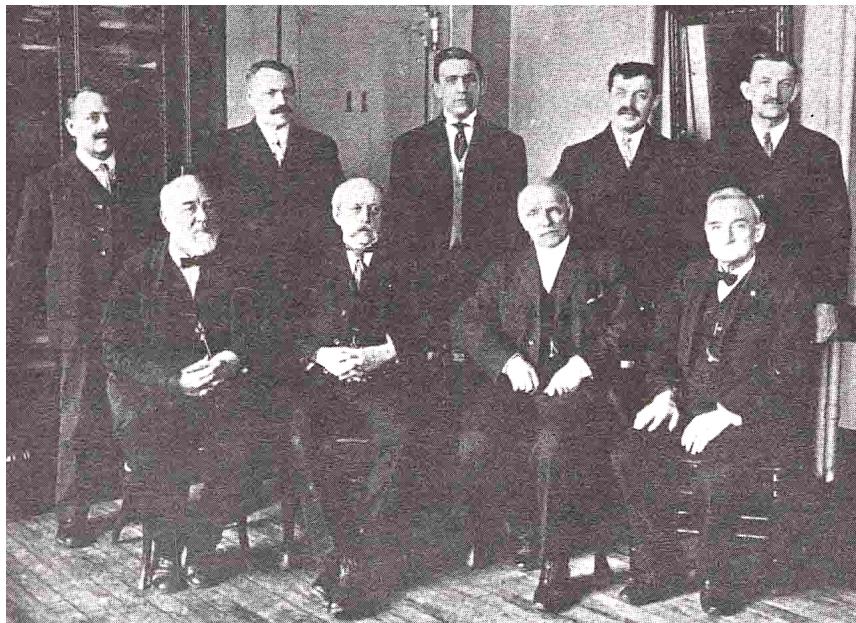
Illinois State Seal (note upside down “Sovereignty”).

Introducing the coin.

This was the last commemorative coin done by Mint personnel. George Morgan became Chief Mint Engraver after Charles E. Barber died in 1917. Morgan engraved Lincoln as a young man, taken from a photo of Andrew O'Connor's statue. The centennial celebrated the admission of Illinois into the Union.

O'Connor started carving tombstones in his father's shop in Worcester, Massachusetts, then studied with John Singer Sargent in London and Auguste Rodin in Paris, then became Daniel French's assistant. French also designed Lincoln's statue in the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C.

John Sinnock, Assistant Mint Engraver, engraved the reverse from the Illinois State seal. When Morgan died in 1925, Sinnock became Chief Engraver from 1925 to 1948. See page 103, for a photo of Sinnock.



Engravers of the Philadelphia Mint. Bottom row (left to right): William Key, Charles E. Barber, George T. Morgan, Unknown.



O'Connor's Lincoln statue in Springfield, Illinois.

Morgan's engraving of Lincoln might be called his masterpiece, showing Lincoln as a brooding, introspective man. Likewise, Sinnock's engraving of the

eagle is spectacular. Most of the commemorative coin references point to this being by far and away the most artistic of all the state commemoratives.

The 1920 Maine Centennial was the first commemorative coin done by a non-mint person – Anthony de Francisci - who would later design the 1921 Peace Dollar. Congress established The Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) in 1910 as an independent federal government agency to review all architectural work in D.C. President Warren G. Harding issued an executive order in 1920 to have the CFA also review all federal coinage, fountains, insignia, medals, monuments, parks and statues. Theoretically the CFA could not nix projects themselves, but they could recommend nixing one, which carried great weight.

The Treasury Secretary William McAdoo tried to get the Illinois state motto on the reverse changed to E PLURIBUS UNUM, but presumably the Illinois Centennial Commission bought influence to bear, ultimately defeating McAdoo.

The Illinois Commission asked for this coin to help finance the state celebrations. The Act of June 1st, 1918 authorized 100,000 coins. These were the first commemorative coins to commemorate a state rather than national event.

100,058 were struck in the Philadelphia mint (58 for assay), and sold at \$1 each from the Springfield Chamber of Commerce and other outlets. Although most people think of Chicago as the big city of Illinois, Springfield is the state capital, where most of the celebrations took place. B. Max Mehl, the famous coin dealer bought 3,000 of the coins.

A Springfield bank bought 30,000 coins, which it kept in its vaults. When President Franklin Delano Roosevelt addressed the 1933 run on the banks crisis by declaring a prolonged bank holiday, the Springfield bank ended up dumping most of them at 50¢ each, or a little above that.

The state of Illinois.

The name Illinois is from the French “Iliniwek” for a group of Native American tribes. The area had originally been under French control, but after the treaty of Paris in 1763 the area was transferred to England, who in turn transferred the territory to the US under the peace treaty of 1783 which ended the Revolutionary War. In 1800 it became part of Indiana territory. In 1803 Illinois territory became a separate entity, until statehood in 1818.

Lincoln was shown on the coin simply as Illinois' most illustrious person, not because they were celebrating Lincoln. Briefly: Lincoln was born in Kentucky in 1809. His father, a farmer repeatedly found titles to his lands in Kentucky were impaired, so he moved to Indiana in 1814 where he acquired an 80 acre farm.

In 1830, he moved west to Illinois, a free state, and settled in Macon County, ten miles west of Decatur, where his son, Abraham Lincoln, a self-educated man, became a lawyer. From 1834 to 1841 Lincoln was a state legislator. In 1846 he

became a US Representative, then resumed his law practice in Springfield, Illinois. In 1854, he re-entered politics as a Republican, and debated Douglas in the 1858 Senatorial race, ultimately losing to him. In 1860 Lincoln was elected Republican President, and led the Union during the civil war. Five days after the Confederate surrender in 1865, a Confederate sympathizer, John Wilkes Booth, assassinated Lincoln.

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US COMMEMORATIVE \$ 1/2, IOWA CENTENNIAL 1946. IOWA CITY CAPITOL / STATE SEAL 30.6MM, 12.5 GRAMS UNC

1348

13 Coins about states. CC48

Iowa Centennial 1946.

Background

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt communicated a lot with Congress about the constant abuse of the commemorative coin program, and wanted to terminate the program. On August 5th, 1939, Congress passed an Act prohibiting any more commemoratives. Had they not, the Mint would probably have been too busy anyway during the war, with increased demand for domestic coinage, minting foreign coins for allies and producing military medals.

An unwritten rule since the time of George Washington was that Presidents only ran for two terms. But FDR ran for a third term because it was wartime. In November 1944 he even ran for a fourth term, not a good precedent, when one thinks that George III said that if Washington relinquished the Presidency he would be the greatest man in the world.* Today this is still true, think of Tsar Putin in Russia, Emperor Xi Jinping of China, and Sultan Erdogan of Turkey! Every one of them fiddled the laws to stay in power.

At any rate perhaps FDR was the best man for the job for the third, but certainly not for his fourth Presidential term. He was an ill man and died in office from malignant hypertension about a month after his election. His successor was Harry Truman, who was new on the stage to commemoratives. So, of course, immediately the deluge! An Act was introduced to approve commemorative coins for the Iowa Centennial, the Booker T. Washington and Will Rogers commemoratives. The Will Rodgers coin got stuck in the Coinage and Weights Committee, but the other two were passed on the same day August 7th, 1946.

The coin.

The obverse shows the Old Stone Capitol Building in Iowa City, with the inscription underneath THE OLD STONE CAPITOL IOWA CITY. The inner legends above are IN GOD WE TRUST, and below LIBERTY. The outer legends above are UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and below HALF DOLLAR. There is a small AP on the rim at 4 o'clock for the sculptor Adam Pietz.

The reverse shows a flying eagle awkwardly turning to the right. There are 29 tiny stars crowded between the wings at top. From the eagle's beak a ribbon reads OUR LIBERTIES WE PRIZE AND OUR RIGHTS WE WILL MAINTAIN, adapted from the state arms. Below is E PLURIBUS UNUM. The legend in a ring around reads IOWA STATEHOOD CENTENNIAL above and +1846 + 1946 + below.

Introducing the coin.

The Iowa Centennial Committee, Ralph Evans chairman, wanted money for a celebration, and asked Nellie Ross, Mint Director for assistance. She gave the project to Adam Pietz, former Assistant Chief Engraver, who had just retired. He took on the project for \$1,000. The Centennial Committee told Pietz they wanted the Capitol on the obverse and eagle with ribbon on the reverse. Pietz suggested the Iowa Governor's head on the reverse, but later accepted the eagle.

The Commission on Fine Arts approved his designs except they told him to add legs to the eagle. The models were made at the Philadelphia mint. On November 20th, 1946, 100,057 coins were struck in a single day (57 for assay).

The coins were shipped to the Centennial Commission at the State House in Des Moines. The Commission apportioned the coins according to county and population through banks, using a lottery system reserving 5,000 for out-of-state sales, 500 to be kept for the 150th anniversary, and 500 for the 200th anniversary at the Norwest Bank in Des Moines, for VIPs. The coins sold for \$2.50 each to in-state residents, and \$3 each to out-of-state residents. Outside parties did not speculate.

Iowa.

The Louisiana Purchase included what would become 13 new states, bordered by the Mississippi River to the east and Mexico and Oregon Country to the west. The name Iowa comes from Ioway Native Americans. In 1838 Iowa became a territory and 1846 a state. Burlington was the temporary capital until Iowa City became territorial capital in 1839. The capital moved to Des Moines in 1857 as Iowa City was too isolated. The population of 3.1 million is 91% white. The main economy is agriculture, agricultural chemicals, heavy machinery, and food processing.



Iowa State Arms on State Flag.

*Actually George III said "that act closing and finishing what had gone before and viewed in connection with it placed him in a light the most distinguished of any man living, and that he thought him the greatest character of the age."

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MAINE CENTENNIAL 1920 COMMEM \$1/2. ARMS/CENTENNIAL. 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS NGC MS 65

1424

13 Coins about states. CC6

Maine Centennial 1920.

Background

Collecting US commemorative coins as a specialty had not yet evolved in 1920. Thus far there were the Columbian and Panama Pacific Exposition coins, the Lafayette dollar, and in 1918 Illinois asked for a half dollar commemorative. That was all. In 1920 Maine was going to celebrate the centennial of its statehood, and decided to ask for a commemorative coin.

The coin.

The obverse is taken from the Maine State arms. The coin shows a farmer holding a scythe, personifying agriculture (Maine is still famed for its potatoes); a pine tree with a moose below on a shield (the moose represents the fur trade, and the pine the timber trade); and a sailor holding an anchor personifying commerce. A ribbon below says ☘ MAINE ☘. Above there is a blazing star with a scroll below saying DIRIGO ("I lead" the State motto).

On the shield the pine tree and moose are in relief within an incuse outline, a style first executed on Egyptian stone and tomb carvings, then reintroduced with Bela Lyon Pratt's 1908 half and quarter eagles. US Mint engravers George Morgan and John Sinnock applied the technique, modifying the dies so the details in this area would strike up better. The model, sculpted by Anthony de Francisci after a design by Harry H. Cochrane, shows the devices in relief only. The legend above is UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and below HALF DOLLAR.

The reverse shows simple lettering within a wreath. MAINE | CENTENNIAL | 1820 – 1920, within an open long-needled pine wreath tied with a bow at its base (alluding to the state's nickname "Pine Tree State"). LIBERTY is placed between the tips of the wreath. The legend above is E PLURIBUS UNUM, and below IN GOD WE TRUST.

Introducing the coin.

In 1920 the Governor and his council in Maine asked the State Treasury to get a centennial commemorative coin. Maine Representative John Peters wanted a centennial commemorative half dollar that would be used in change much like todays state quarters. Other legislators and the centennial organizers disagreed. The Act passed on May 10th, 1920, authorizing 100,000 coins. As usual, the state was responsible for the expense of the models and die preparation

Four days later Rep. Peters sent the US Treasury Secretary David Houston the sketch of the coin they wanted, who in turn sent it to the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA). James Earl Fraser, the sculptor member, said he was not in favor of a sketch, he preferred an actual model done by a noted sculptor. Charles Moore, the CFA chair, told Houston "the design proposed is positively bad, and would bring humiliation to the people of Maine" (it reminds me of the old man of the mountain New Hampshire state quarter – as ugly as they come – not to mention the rock has since fallen down!).

But the Maine Centennial Commission was adamant, so Fraser asked his student Anthony de Francisci to prepare models in June, which were approved by CFA on 8th July, 1920. Cornelius Vermeule (see references) called it "a vapid coin, just like a prize medal for a county fair".

50,028 coins (28 for assay) were struck late summer and sold for \$1 each. The Centennial Commission had wanted to distribute it during the Portland, Maine celebrations in the summer but it was struck too late. Nevertheless, 30,000 sold within three months and the rest were kept by the State Treasurers office and sold over the next 10 years. None were melted. Probably only 10% were bought by numismatists as commemorative collecting was not yet a specialty.

Maine.

Please see pages 192 to 195 on the York County Maine Tercentenary. The Missouri compromise passed in 1820, with Maine entering the union as a free state that year, and Missouri as a slave state, the next year. Maine industries are agriculture, fishing, lumber, paper and shipbuilding.



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MARYLAND TERCENTENARY 1934 COMMEM \$1/2. CECIL CALVERT/MD ARMS 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS NGC MS 65

1425

13 Coins about states. CC21.

Maryland Tercentennial 1934.

Background

The Maryland Tercentenary was the first commemorative coin Congress authorized after a hiatus since 1928 and is interesting because of its numismatic roots. Cecil Calvert, second Lord Baltimore issued coinage for the colony in 1659.

The coin.

The obverse shows a three-quarter left bust of Cecil Calvert with CECIL CALVERT below. The inscription in the left field is E PLURIBUS UNUM, and in the right field IN GOD WE TRUST. The legend above is UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and below HALF DOLLAR. The bust was taken from a painting by Gerard Soest. Calvert depicts himself on his own coinage as a simple draped bust not a wide collar. It is normal for the right cheek, nose and eyebrows not to be fully struck on these commemoratives. This means that the planchet surface remains on the high points, not being smoothed out by striking.

The reverse shows the Maryland arms, a crowned shield with a man with spade on the left (representing Labor), and a man holding a fish (representing "Fisheries") on the right. A mantling suspended from three points backs the whole. At center top is a helmet with a baronial coronet with two flags on top. Underneath is a scroll with FATTE MASCHII PAROLE FEMINE (Italian for "deeds are manly; words are womanly"). Presumably this tripe is in Italian because the Lords Baltimore were Roman Catholics.

By the laborer's foot is HS for Hans Schuler, the sculptor. According to Walter Breen (see reference) the arms are a "paly of six, argent and sable, a bend counterchanged, quartered with his wife's cross bottony". Translated from "heraldese" into English, this means the shield had four quarters, two were Calvert's, and two were his wife's. Calvert's had six vertical stripes of alternating silver and black (incorrectly depicted in the state arms picture opposite), with a diagonal stripe through them. A cross bottony is a cross with a trefoil at the end of each limb.

The baronial coronet with two flags above appears in the rare one penny Baltimore coinage of 1659 (see opposite). The legend reads MARYLAND TERCENTENARY above and *1634 – 1934 * below.

Introducing the coins.

The Maryland Tercentennial Commission asked Senators Robert Goldsborough and Joseph Tydings to push a bill through Congress. Indeed, on May 9th, 1934 an Act for 25,000 coins passed. Although FDR pushed against commemoratives, he was reluctant to veto a bill that had passed Congress. The last commemorative coin had been in 1928. Congress lost no time. In 1934, they passed four Acts for commemorative coins.



State arms of Maryland.



IDLER STRUCK COPY OF LORD BALTIMORE DENARIUM. HEAD / CROWN. 20.6MM, 5.02 GRAMS SUPERB BU

484

Note simple draped bust, and Baronet's coronet with two flags.



Cecil Calvert, second Lord Baltimore by Gerard Soest ca. 1670 note collar.

Hans Schuler was director of the Maryland Institute, and finished sculpting the models on May 9th, 1934. The next day the models arrived at the Philadelphia Mint for the Commission on Fine Arts (CFA) review. The CFA made many suggestions. As a result, Schuler revised the models. Lee Lawrie, CFA sculptor, commented on how the cut of the Cavalier collar should be different from the Puritan-like collar Schuler used. Schuler removed the 13 stars on the obverse, changed the places of required mottoes, but said the collar was correct because that was how Gerard Soest painted it (i.e. like Oliver Cromwell, not like a Catholic cavalier). But they were short of time so the CFA let it go.



**Cecil Calvert, second Lord Baltimore later painting by Florence MacKubin 1910
simply imitates Soest's painting with same collar style.**

By 1630s lace collars were fashionable, and in 1660s jabots came into fashion which were lace falling from the throat attached to the collar. So it seems that CFA was correct that the collar depicted in Soest's painting may have been inaccurate and something that would have been more likely worn by a Puritan than a cavalier. Nevertheless, a painting of Cecil's brother shows a simple

collar too though there is a rudimentary jabot dangling from his neck (see next page). A cavalier was a royalist and a roundhead was a Cromwell follower.



Jabots worn in International Court of Justice 2006.



Boston Puritan merchant wearing lace collar 1674. It became fashionable in 1630s.

In July 1934, 25,015 coins were struck (15 for assay). The Commission sold 15,000 in 1934 for \$1 each. 5,000 were given to banks to sell. In 1935 5,000 were sold with discounts for volume lots. Four matte proofs exist.

Maryland and its numismatic heritage.



George Calvert, First Lord Baltimore by Daniel Mytens.

The first Lord Baltimore, George Calvert, was a member of the Virginia Company and Council for New England and was granted lands in Newfoundland in 1622. He asked King Charles I (1625-1649) for warmer holdings, which were granted to his son as the first Lord had died in 1632. The second Lord Baltimore, Cecil Calvert (1605-1675) was absolute or “palatine” ruler in Maryland and could make laws, coin money and act as a feudal lord.



2201

Charles I on coin.

Charles I gave Cecil (pictured two pages back) a grant of 10 million acres. Charles I specified it be called Maryland after his wife Queen Mary. Cecil sponsored 200 colonists to emigrate from England to America on the *Ark* and *Dove* in 1633. Three months later in 1634, Cecil's emigrants landed at St. Mary's, Maryland. Cecil himself never came to America. He was a home-body businessman.

Cecil granted the colonists religious freedom in 1634. (Freedom next arrived in America in Roger Williams' Rhode Island in 1636). The sub-agenda was that Cecil was Roman Catholic, so religious freedom allowed the Roman Catholics to practice freely in Maryland whereas they had been persecuted in England. But English Protestants would not allow a purely Roman Catholic colony, just the idea of religious freedom.

In return for absolute “palatine” power in America Cecil only had to pay the King fealty once a year of two Indian arrows, and pay the King a fifth of any silver or gold found there. The Spanish King also got a “Royal Fifth” i.e. 20%

of all silver or gold discovered in the colonies. Presumably this was where Charles I got his idea from - of 20% of all silver or gold discovered.

During the interregnum (period between Charles I's execution and Charles II's restoration 1649-1660) Cecil Calvert lost control of Maryland, then regained it in 1657. In 1657 Cecil appointed Josias Fendall Governor, and Cecil's brother Philip (also called Leonard) was made provincial secretary in England. Cecil had Philip negotiate die preparation and minting of the coinage around 1659 from the Royal Mint in England for use in Maryland. Cecil's palatine, or all-encompassing rights, included coinage.



Cecil Calvert's brother Philip Leonard. Note simple collar with small pendant, possibly lace.

Cecil tried to get the Maryland Assembly to vote to accept his coinage during 1659-1660, but because of Protestant opposition in Maryland his government was nearly overthrown. Cecil then tried Maryland Governor, Josias Fendall, for treason and made his own brother, Philip, Governor in 1661.

The Commonwealth had consented to Cecil's coinage in 1659 when it was minted. But it took until 1661 for the Maryland Assembly to legislate acceptance of the coin. They also voted to mint coins but no mint has ever been found in Maryland.

Charles II was restored to the throne in 1660 and Cecil's representatives were thereafter more careful because coinage was a royal prerogative, punishable by death. However, Cecil's palatine rule included coinage.

Maryland passed another Act to circulate coins in 1662. The law required each taxable person in Maryland at the time (there were 2,873 taxable people in 1663) to pay ten shillings in silver. Thus £1,436 of silver coins were mandated to circulate in Maryland. Cecil was a businessman, he planned to exchange his silver for Maryland tobacco, then resell the tobacco in England at a profit. But tobacco prices dropped and Cecil lost money on his coinage.



LORD BALTIMORE SIXPENCE, CA. 1659. CECIL CALVERT / SHIELD. W-1060; 20MM PCGS XF 45

2700

Note Cecil's plain draped bust in ca. 1659. Also his shield is crowned with a baronet's coronet, symbolic of his absolute palatine rule in America

In 1659, the British government issued a warrant for Cecil's arrest, not for coinage, but for exporting specie (bullion currency). However, they must have settled the matter as he was never arrested. Historically Calvert's coinage was the first struck in England for any American colony. Like the Massachusetts Bay Colony, they struck silver at 9 pence to the shilling (75% of proper weight) to keep it in the colony (outside the colony it would only have bought 75% of its value).

Cecil's son Charles Calvert became owner ("proprietor") in 1675 when Cecil died. Charles returned to England from America in 1684 to settle a boundary dispute with William Penn. He never returned. Four years later in 1688 the colony was taken over by Protestants the same year the Roman Catholic King

James II was overthrown in England by the Protestant William III ("The Glorious Revolution").

In 1694, the capital moved from St. Mary's to Annapolis on Chesapeake Bay (named in 1694 after Princess Anne, who would later be Queen of England 1702-1714). Baltimore subsequently became a much larger city, of course named after Lord Baltimore. Today the main industries are healthcare, government, retail and professional and technical services. The state had 50 federal agencies!

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MISSOURI CENTENNIAL 2*4 IN FIELD 1921 COMMEM \$1/2. FRONTIERSMAN/FRONTIERSMAN & INDIAN. 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS NGC MS 64

1474

13 Coins about states. CC8.

Missouri Centennial 1921.

Background

Speaker of the house, Senator Henry Clay negotiated the 1820 Missouri compromise in the ongoing US battle between the slave-holding southern states and non-slave-holding northern states. The compromise was that Maine would enter in the North as a free state in 1820, and that Missouri would enter as a slave-holding state in the south in 1821. It also said that no further slave states would be allowed north of the latitude of 36° 30', i.e. the southern boundary of Missouri.



Vignette of Clay on left on T-41, a Confederate note during the Civil War.

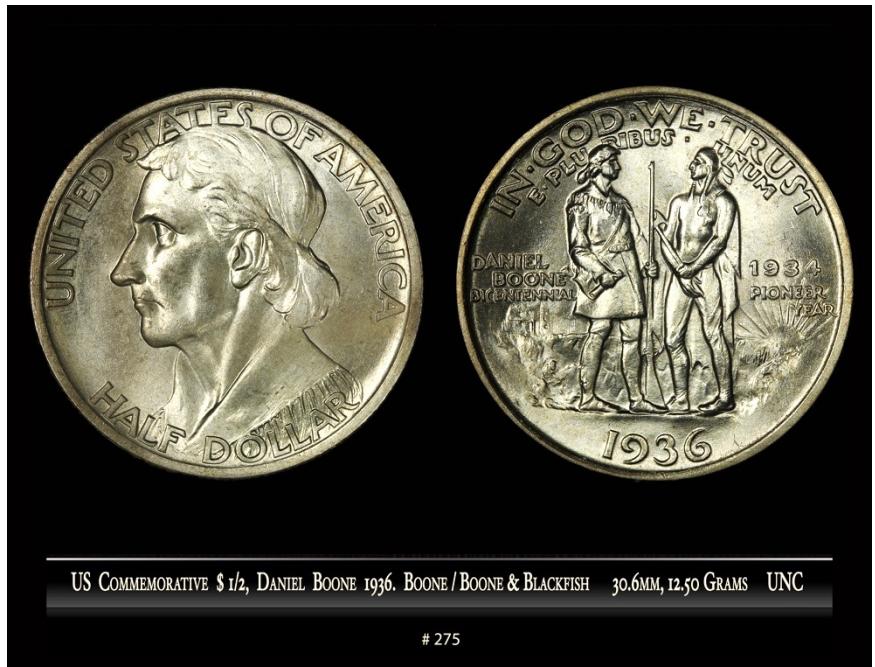
The coin.

The obverse shows a bust of Boone facing left in a deerskin jacket and coonskin hat. Boone had died aged 86 the year before. The legend is UNITED•STATES•OF•AMERICA above and HALF•DOLLAR below. It is remarkable how different the face looks from the Boone Bicentennial (to see why, see page 206).

The reverse shows Boone standing gesturing west to a Native American. He has a powder horn over his right shoulder, and holds a long rifle in his right hand. The rifle butt rests on the ground by the RA monogram of the sculptor Robert Aitken. The standing Native America looks west holding a peace pipe on his right and a shield in front of him. Twenty-four stars clutter the lower fields. The legend above is MISSOURI•CENTENNIAL•. In the exergue is an incuse SEDALIA, for Sedalia, Missouri, where the Centennial celebrations were held. There are no mottoes.

Introducing the coin.

In January 1921 US Senator for Missouri, Selden Palmer, wrote to the Commission for Fine Arts (CFA) to check on procedures, aware that a bill was making its way through Congress. They had authorized 250,000 coins on March 4th, 1921, the same day as President Warren Harding's inauguration. He signed the bill though it was from a previous administration



US COMMEMORATIVE \$ 1/2, DANIEL BOONE 1936. BOONE / BOONE & BLACKFISH 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS UNC

275

Note dissimilar face to Missouri's Boone, and similar motif on reverse.

In February, James Montgomery, Chairman of the Missouri Centennial Exposition and State Fair Committee, who was raising money for the Fair, wrote to the CFA suggesting Boone on the obverse and the state seal on the reverse. The committee advertised sketches of this of how they thought the coin would look. Montgomery also had another marketing idea: to place an incuse 2★4 on the coin, then after 5,000 coins had been struck the projecting 2★4 would be shaved off the die and the remainder of the coins would have no 2★4 on. The 2★4 represented that Missouri was the 24th star on the US flag.

Meanwhile in late March the CFA named Robert Aitken to prepare models for which he charged \$1,500. He had sculpted the 1915 Panama Pacific Exposition \$50 gold piece. Aitken felt the seal reverse would not look good, and so changed it to the two men motif. In May the CFA approved Aitken's sketches, and in June approved his models. Chairman Montgomery was never notified of the change in the reverse, so kept on advertising the old sketches! His response when he found has been lost to history!

The models were sent to the Medallic Art Company in New York City, and they created the reduced master dies for \$250. In July, 50,028 coins were struck (28 for assay). The first 10,000 (not 5,000 as originally planned) had the 2★4 device on the obverse. The remainder (45,028) were struck without the 2★4. The coins were sent to the Missouri Centennial Committee branch of the Sedalia Chamber of Commerce. Plain coins were sold in the first week of the Missouri

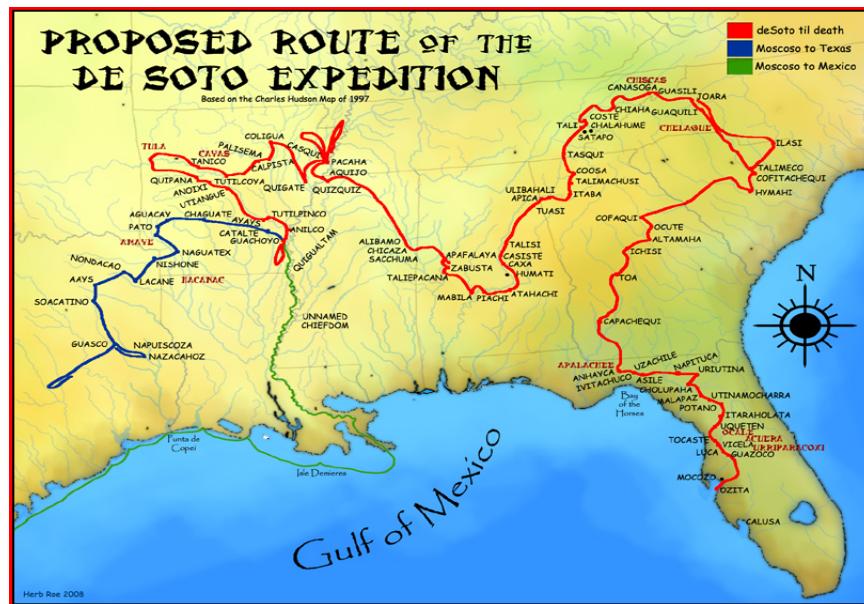
Centennial Exposition and State Fair in Sedalia, then the 2★4 coins for the rest of the Fair. Both types sold for \$1 a piece. The fair ran August 8th, to 20th.

At the end of festivities 29,600 plain coins were returned to the Philadelphia Mint for re-melting. Thus the net distribution of the plain coins was 15,428, and of the 2★4 coins 10,000. This fits in with the numbers of coins submitted to coin grading services. As of May 2018, PCGS and NGC had 4,347 plain coins and 3,566 2★4 coins submitted for grading. Some still say only 5,000 2★4 were minted but this seems unlikely, given the above numbers.

This coin omits the three mottoes LIBERTY, E PLURIBUS UNUM, and IN GOD WE TRUST. The Columbia Exposition commemorative half and quarter dollar and the Lafayette commemorative dollar all also omitted these three mottoes. All the early commemorative gold dollars between 1903 and 1915 also omitted the three mottoes. The 1915 Panama Pacific half dollar and gold quarter eagle had only one motto on, and the \$50 piece had only two of the three mottoes on. All later coins had at least one of the three mottoes on apart from the Missouri Centennial commemorative coin.

Fortunately only this coin, the Alabama Centennial and the Grant Memorial had the transparently silly extra marks on to create two varieties. It was of course possible to counterfeit the 2★4 by striking an incuse stamp into the plain coin. But why bother? Their values today would be the same!

Cornelius Vermeule (see references) said; "When Aitken (1878-1949) turned his hand to commemoratives in 1921 he became the first American medalist to apply Renaissance medallic design to.... make a frontiersman look like a Medici prince.... Lettering follows the forms and system of Pisanello (a Renaissance medalist)".

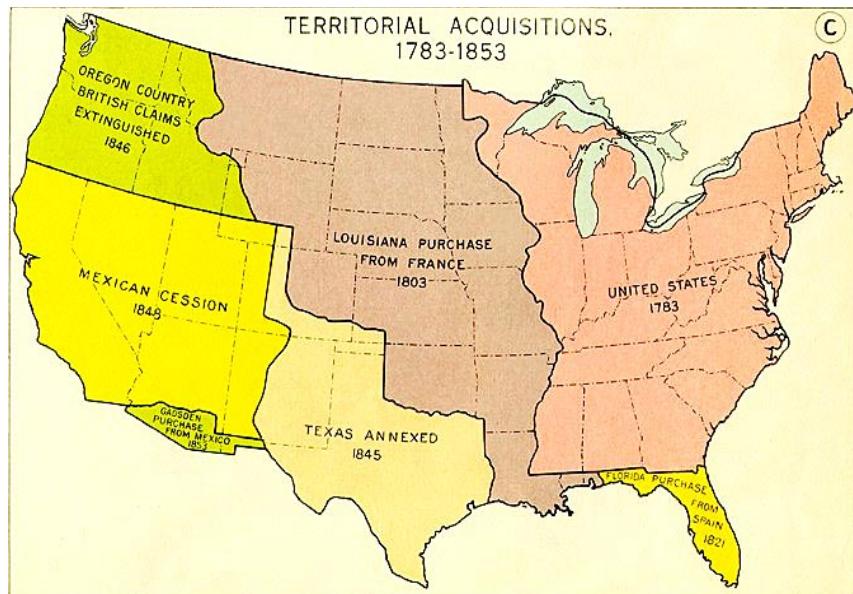


Missouri History.

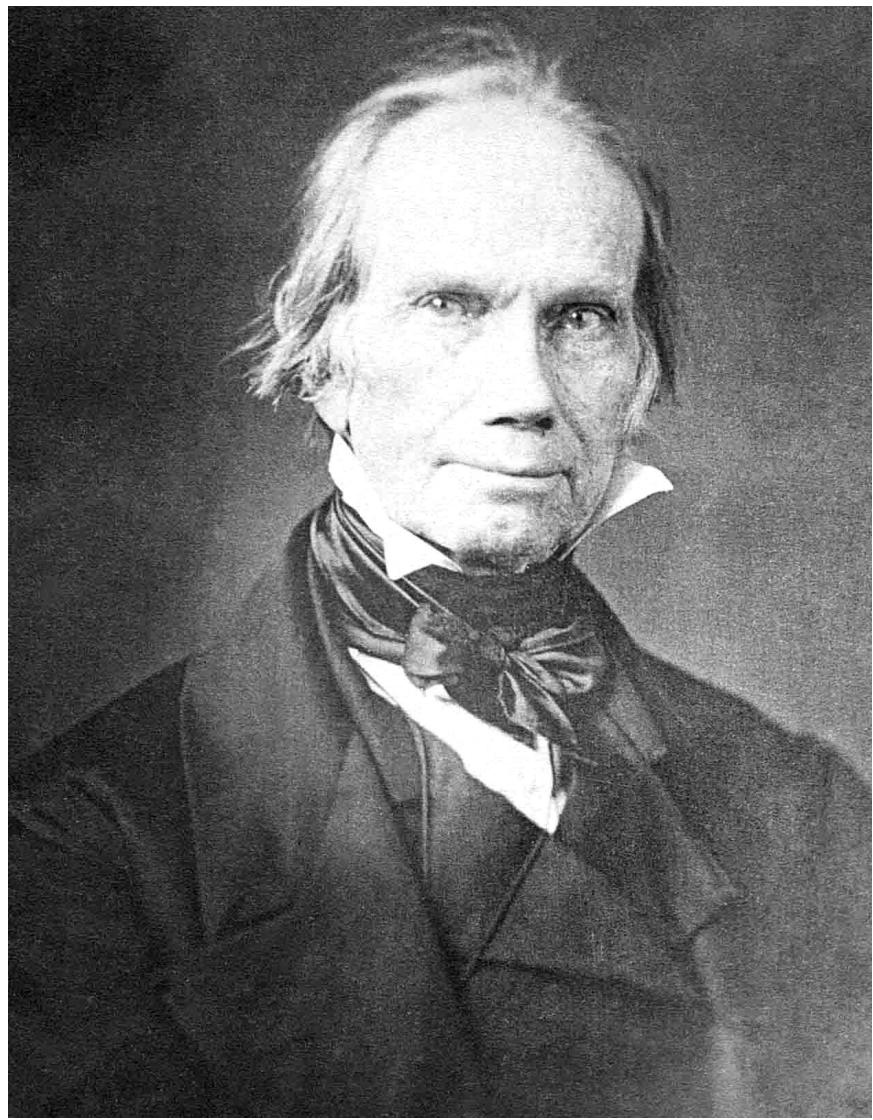
In 1540, the Spaniard conquistador De Soto led the first European exploratory expedition in the area (see opposite). In 1673 a Jesuit priest, Marquette, and French trader, Jolliet, travelled down the Mississippi River, and used the river to trade furs, lead and other goods. In 1764, the French founded St. Louis, named after King Louis IX (ruled 1226-1270) who was a canonized Catholic saint. In 1803 American President Thomas Jefferson bought Louisiana from the French for the United States. Thirteen states would eventually emerge from French Louisiana. In 1812 Missouri became a territory, and 1821 a state.

In 1817, Missouri first applied for statehood. But in US Congressman for New York, Rep. James Tallmadge, tried to add an antislavery amendment to the legislation. Had that amendment gone through, Missouri would not have been able to bring slaves into the state and would have had to emancipate those already in the state when they became 25 years old. A bitter debate then broke out about whether the federal government could restrict slavery. Tallmadge's amendment passed in the House but failed in the Senate.

Maine then requested statehood, and the US Senate passed a bill admitting Maine to statehood as a free state and Missouri as a slave state. But US Senator for Illinois, Jesse Thomas, added an amendment banning slavery in the lands of the Louisiana Purchase north of latitude $36^{\circ} 30'$. This area would later include the states of Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas. At the time of course this area did not contain states, just territories. The masterful Senator Henry Clay of Kentucky then proposed a compromise allowing Maine to be a free state, Missouri a slave state, and the remaining territories "free soil".



Territorial Acquisitions of the United States.



Henry Clay photograph taken in 1848.

In Europe in 1848 there were revolutions in the Germanic States, and many German immigrants came over to Missouri. Today, Missouri products are agriculture and food processing, aerospace and manufacturing. It produces more lead than any other state.

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1936 S RHODE ISLAND TERCENTENNIAL SILVER \$1/2 WILLIAMS/ANCHOR. 12.5 GRAMS, 30.6 MM MS63

457

13 Coins about states. CC30

Rhode Island Tercentennial 1936.

Background

Although the Puritan Pilgrims went to Plymouth in 1620 (and more went to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630) for religious freedom, that is not what we would understand as freedom today. In fact, they went so they could live within their own religious interpretations. Dissenters were not tolerated. One dissenter was Roger Williams, who left to start a new colony in Narragansett Bay, which he called Providence. These tercentenary commemorative coins were called Rhode Island or Providence commemorative half dollars. In fact, the proper name for Rhode Island is "Rhode Island and the Providence Plantations".

The coin.

The obverse is taken from the coat of arms of Providence (below). Roger Williams arrived kneeling in a canoe, clutching a bible in his left hand, and raised his right hand in greeting to Narragansett Native Americans who stand on shore at State Rock. The Narragansett people are Rhode Island area Algonquin Native Americans. The Native American is holding a stick in his left hand and holds out his right hand in greeting. A hand in this position apparently meant "good" to the Algonquin North Americans. Behind him is a stylized corn plant, symbolizing the many contributions of Native Americans to European settlers. Below the plant is the mintmark, S for San Francisco. In the background is a sun with rays intermingled with LIBERTY, symbolizing religious freedom.



The seal of the city of Providence.

In the outer ring above is :IN•GOD•WE•TRUST: in large letters. This motto is not just a statutory motto, but was an integral part of Providence's founding philosophy. Today religious freedom includes agnosticism, atheism, humanism etc., so IN GOD WE TRUST would be the antithesis of religious freedom! Below is 1636•RHODE•ISLAND•1936.



Seal of the State of Rhode Island.

The reverse of the coin shows a modified Rhode Island seal (shown above) with the anchor of Hope on a shield with mantling behind. On a ribbon above is •HOPE• and below E PLURIBUS UNUM. Hope is a contraction for the Rhode Island State motto: In te domine speramus (Latin for "in thee O Lord we hope"). The legend above is UNITED•STATES•OF•AMERICA, and below: HALF•DOLLAR:

Interestingly the Brown University motto is "in Deo speramus", which Salmon Chase (1808-1873), Secretary for the Treasury during the Civil War, translated as "In God we trust". He had Congress pass a law in 1864 to put that motto on all US coins. It was first put on the two-cent piece, which also came out in 1864 (see below).

In 1956, Congress legislated that "in God we trust" appear on all US paper money. However, during the obsolete bank note era from 1782 to 1866 some Florida State notes could use the motto because "in God we trust" was the Florida state motto. It still is.

Introducing the coin.

US Senators Jesse Metcalf and Peter Gerry, and Rep. John O'Connell pushed a bill through Congress which jointly authorized the Rhode Island coin (50,000), and the Hudson Sesquicentennial coins on May 2nd, 1935.



Two cent coin which started in 1864, first US coin with "In God We Trust"#1814

Judge Letts, chairman of the Rhode Island and Providence Plantations Tercentenary Committee (RIPPTC - what a mouthful!) asked Mr. Farnum, director of RISD (Rhode Island School of Design) for suggestions. He suggested John Benson, an instructor in epigraphy (lettering), and his friend, a silversmith named Arthur Carey, to design the coin. They later started a stonecutting business together. Arlie Slabaugh (see references) said "The design appears to resemble a stone carving..."

Actually, Letts, chairman of the Committee, had so many requests from designers that he responded by setting up a competition with a measly \$350 prize. Naturally Benson and Carey's entry won! I wonder why!

The original models had two rings of lettering around each side (see Don Taxay, page 169). These were modified to remove the outer lettering. The outer lettering on the original model obverse was Roger Williams' original statement in his own words: "CALLED THE PLACE PROVIDENCE IN A SENCE (sic) OF GODS MERCIFUL PROVIDENCE UNTO ME". On the reverse was another extra ring of legend: TERCENTENARY OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS.

The Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) approved the final models on December 20th, 1935, after Lee Lawrie, CFA sculptor member, wrote to chairman Charles Moore saying "It won't make a great coin... I mean of course approval of the models". The models were sent to the Medallic Art Company, New York City, who sent the reduced master die to the Philadelphia Mint. The mint then produced a hub, from which three dies were produced, one without a mintmark for Philadelphia, one with a D mintmark for Denver, and one with an S mint mark for San Francisco (see page 336 for hubs and dies). Philadelphia struck 20,013 coins (13 for assay) in January 1936, Denver struck 15,010 (10 for assay) in February 1936, and San Francisco 15,011 (11 for assay) also in February 1936.

Many commemorative designers just stick a coat of arms on the back so they don't have to bother thinking up something original. But this coin has a coat of arms on both sides! Cornelius Vermeule (see references) said, "the Indian and Williams are blocked out with a childlike charm". "It can be admired as an amateur production which is to the series (commemoratives) what the paintings of Grandma Moses are to the canvases of Andrew Wyeth".

Enormous publicity followed to sell the coins at \$1 each from the Rhode Island Hospital National Bank, who distributed allotments to thirty banks and 6,750 coins to a Providence coin store called "Grant's Hobby Shop". Horace Grant was a Providence coin dealer and he distributed coins to numismatists for \$1.50.

Grant and Arthur Philbrick (Treasurer of the RIPPTC) tried restrictive marketing claiming that the coins sold out by 3 pm on the first day of the sale 5th March, 1936. Grant tried selling them at higher prices but rubbed numismatists up the wrong way. Restrictive marketing included articles saying Arthur Philbrick found all the coins sold out, the Rhode Island coin was going to be the last commemorative for any local or state celebration, and a Kansas collector had advertised that the coins would be \$4. Readers of this book will understand that 50,000 coins for a state (not national) celebration would not sell out within hours.

Philbrick's crooked marketing attracted several lawsuits. Numerous rumors followed saying this or that banker or dealer "had access" to the coins and could sell them to you for high prices. Senators, Congressmen, and Mint officials bore the brunt of upset consumers.

On February 23rd, 1938 the RIPPTC dissolved. Their profit was \$24,000, of which \$16,000 they gave for a Roger Williams Memorial. Pictured below, it strikes me as crude. The statue shows him with the Indian "good" greeting.

Roger Williams.

Roger Williams (1603-1683) was born in England and came to America in 1631 with the Massachusetts Bay Colony (MBC) as a Puritan minister. He became minister of Salem Church. He espoused "radical" views like religious freedom, separation of church and state, and compensating Native Americans for land taken by settlers.

The MBC General Court (where church and state were one) became alarmed about Williams' "radical" views and pressured him to return to England. Finally in 1635 they banished him from MBC. He escaped and lived with the Wampanoag Sachem (a local tribal chief), named Massasoit, for three months in the winter. In spring 1636 he settled in Narragansett Bay. The Narragansetts greeted him apparently with the phrase "what cheer, Neetop" meaning "hello friend" (on Providence seal, see above).

He bought land from the friendly Narragansetts, and urged his followers to do the same, establishing freedom of worship. Several towns within the area combined to form the Providence Plantations. He established a majority

democracy. MBC asked him to help during the Pequot War of 1637-8. He did, and the Narragansetts joined the colonists, helping to crush the Pequots, making the Narragansetts the most powerful tribe in New England.



Left: Statue of Roger Williams. Right: Roger Williams Memorial.

Organized religion in New England despised Williams and tried to destroy him, so in 1643 Williams sailed to England and persuaded Sir Henry Vane to help him get a patent for Providence Plantations and the adjacent Rhode Island settlements. Williams had become famous as the author of the first phrase and custom book of Native Americans nicknamed "Key" which became a best seller.

In 1651, the patent was rescinded, so in 1652 he returned to England to get it restored. In 1654 he was elected President of the Colony. In 1663 Charles II granted him a royal charter. A patent meant the right to settle colonial settlements within a specified region, usually granted by the crown. A royal charter gave the power to an individual or corporation to organize and manage their own affairs. Towards the end of his life Williams resentfully fought Native Americans in King Philip's War (1675-6). During the war Providence was burnt.

The name Rhode Island derives from the Dutch explorer Adrian Block, who named it "Roodt Eylandt" meaning red island, because of the red clay that lined its shore. Supposedly Roodt was anglicized to Rhode, as in the Island of Rhodes. Another story is that Giovanni da Verrazano, exploring in 1524 likened the island in the mouth of Narragansett Bay to the Island of Rhodes in the Mediterranean. The island he was referring to is now called Aquidneck Island, whose shape is depicted on a colonial coin, the Rhode Island Ship Medal. Roger Williams was an authority on the Narragansett as well as other Native American languages, but said he never did find out Aquidneck's meaning. (It could mean "floating-mass-at"). Williams also spoke Latin, Hebrew, Greek, Dutch, and

French. Williams also was one of the first abolitionists, and founded the First Baptist Church in America. He was truly a great man.



RHODE ISLAND SHIP MEDAL, WREATH BELOW SHIP, PEWTER. EX-GARRETT. W-1745; 8.36 GRAMS, 31.5MM PCGS AU 53 10-15 KNOWN

2699

Rhode Island Ship Medal 1779, shows the bell shaped island of Aquidneck.

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- <http://npplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Roger-Williams-007.jpg>



1936 WISCONSIN TERRITORIAL CENTENNIAL BADGER/AXE COMMEM \$ 1/2 12.5 GRAMS, 30.6MM PCGS MS 65

1342

13 Coins about states. CC32

Wisconsin Territorial Centennial

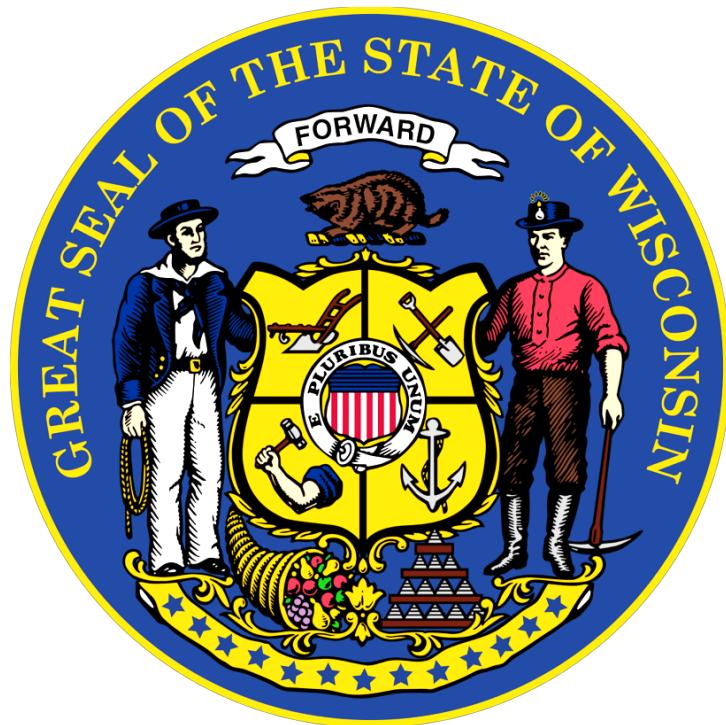
1936.

Background

Wisconsin territory started in 1836, so this is the only coin in the series to celebrate an anniversary of a territory rather than a state.

The coin.

The obverse shows a badger facing left standing on a small log with three vertical arrows (for war with the Black Hawk Native Americans) and a stiff upright olive branch for peace (code for Black Hawks subdued). The “peace” enabled the area to become a territory. Below the log is H for the designer Benjamin Hawkins. The badger is not native to Wisconsin, and refers to the nickname for lead miners who came from the east in the 1820s and who lived in hillside dugouts like badgers. The badger is the state animal, and one of many devices on the state shield. The legend above is UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and E PLURIBUS UNUM, below is LIBERTY and HALF DOLLAR. Between arrows and olive branch is IN GOD WE TRUST. Hawkins certainly got all those mandated mottoes out of the way on the obverse! The Mint says this is the obverse, others feel differently.



Seal of Wisconsin State, note badger, cornucopia, lead, sailor labor, shield etc.

The reverse is adapted from the Wisconsin Territorial seal. It shows a forearm holding a pickaxe above a clump of lead ore from the lead mines in the southeast part of the state. The inscription reads 4th DAY OF JULY | ANNO DOMINI | 1836 (the day when Henry Dodge took office as the first Territorial Governor of Wisconsin). The legend reads WISCONSIN TERRITORIAL CENTENIAL ★1936★.



Seal of Wisconsin Territory 1836 - 1848.

Introducing the coin.

On May 15th, 1936 Congress passed an Act for the Bridgeport, Delaware, and Wisconsin commemorative half dollars. All three coins had no limit placed on the number minted, but a specified minimum of 25,000 was required, and each had to be of a single design and mint. The Coinage Committee of the Wisconsin Centennial Celebration selected David Goode Parsons, a University of Wisconsin art student, to sculpt models of a badger for the obverse and the Wisconsin Territory seal for the reverse. They wanted “local talent”. But his models were totally unsuitable for a coin, and the Mint rejected them.

The Wisconsin Committee asked for recommendations. The Commission for Fine Arts (CFA) suggested the New York sculptor Benjamin Hawkins. He had to do the same thing, dictated by the Wisconsin Committee. He took over in early May, and on June 5th his models were approved by the CFA. In July, 25,015 coins were struck at the Philadelphia mint (15 for assay). The Wisconsin Committee supposedly sold these for \$1.50 each during celebrations in the state capital, Madison. Celebrations ran from June 27th to July 5th. It seems to me that the coins would not have been ready if they were struck in July in Philadelphia. Nevertheless, thousands of coins remained unsold and were held by the State Historical Society, and were still available in the 1950s for \$3 each.

Cornelius Vermeule (see references) commented the coin was “little more than a high school medal of the dullest variety” “it ranks with some of the worst local society or small-occasion medals”. Don Taxay (see references) says: “The seal of territorial Wisconsin would, admittedly, balk the labors of genius to convert it into a work of art! The Wisconsin Committee maintained throughout the period that the work was that of “local talent” David Parsons, despite his design being totally inappropriate and completely replaced by Benjamin Hawkins. The coin is just another badly designed commemorative half dollar.

Wisconsin.

Jean Nicolet was the first Wisconsin explorer arriving 1634 from Canada seeking the fabled Northwest Passage. He called the Wisconsin River “Meskonsing”, after the Algonquian name for it, which other French writers changed to “Ouisconsin”.

Wisconsin became part of French Canada. After the 1763 Treaty of Paris, ending fighting between the English and French, the territory was granted to the British. Confusingly the 1783 treaty between America and England was also called the Treaty of Paris. Although Wisconsin then became part of America, the English still dominated the area until the War of 1812.

The population in 1820 was about 1,500. The fur trade dominated until lead was discovered in the southwest part of Wisconsin. At that time, it was part of Michigan territory. With the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825, New Englanders could travel easily to Wisconsin to mine the newly discovered lead, and by 1830 the population grew to 3,000. Meanwhile, the Indian Removal Act, signed into law by Andrew Jackson in 1830, meant forced migration of Native Americans from their lands to west of the Mississippi. The National Museum of the American Indian calls the policy genocide because it completely discriminated against the ethnic group to the point of certain death in huge numbers. In the early 1830s 125,000 Native Americans tribes lived in present day Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina and Florida. In the Trail of Tears 17,000 Cherokees were forcibly marched off their lands. 4,000 died.

In April 1832 Chief Black Hawk of the Sauk tribe tried to resettle tribal lands that the US bought from them in the controversial 1804 Treaty of St. Louis. The chiefs had probably not intended to sell so much land, and would never have accepted only \$2,200 for so much land had they known (see map opposite). Likely, the Americans tricked the Sauk and Meskwaki chiefs by including more land than they realized in the treaty’s language.

Black Hawk led a group of around 1,500 Sauks, Meskwakis and Kickapoos, called the “British Band”, to fight off invading settlers in 1832. The US government sent soldiers who opened fire on a delegation from the Native Americans on May 14th, 1832. The same day Black Hawk attacked them at the Battle of Stillman’s Run, when Major Stillman with 275 soldiers lead a panicked retreat from 50 -200 Sauks. The British Band then raided forts and settlements.

Finally, Col. Henry Dodge caught up with them and defeated them July 21st at the Battle of Wisconsin Heights. On August 2nd, soldiers finished off the Native Americans at the Battle of Bad Axe, killing many and capturing the remainder.

Col. Henry Dodge became the first Governor of the Territory of Wisconsin on July 4th, 1836, as commemorated on the reverse of the coin. Abraham Lincoln was also involved as a Captain in the 1832 Black Hawk war, but saw no action.



Left: Lands ceded by Sauk and Meskwaki chiefs to US in Treaty of St. Louis 1804 in yellow. Right: Black Hawk.

In 1848 Wisconsin became a state. Today it is known as the dairy state. It is famous for its cheese, Harley-Davidsons, John Deere and Caterpillar. Their economy is based on farm produce and manufacturing.

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LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION / JEFFERSON, 1903 GOLD COMMEM \$. JEFFERSON/ONE DOLLAR; 14MM, 1.67 GRAMS PCGS AU 58

1837



LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION / MCKINLEY, 1903 GOLD COMMEM \$. MCKINLEY/ONE DOLLAR; 14MM, 1.67 GRAMS PCGS MS 63

1863

CHAPTER NINE

4 Gold only commemoratives. CC G1 &2 Jefferson & McKinley Louisiana Purchase 1903.

Background

Jefferson's momentous Louisiana Purchase from Napoleon, of 828,000 square miles in 1803, doubled the size of America overnight. One hundred years later St. Louis, Missouri, celebrated the centennial of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase Exposition (actually it was late – 1904!) These are the first gold commemoratives (except the 1848 CAL non-collectible quarter eagle, currently valued at \$40,000 to \$400,000).

The coins.

There are two coins, both gold dollars, with different obverses – one featuring Thomas Jefferson and the other William H McKinley, but both feature a common reverse. The Jefferson obverse shows a bust of Jefferson wearing cravat and periwig facing left with the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and a dentate border. The McKinley obverse shows a bust of McKinley wearing his usual bowtie facing left with the same legend.

The common reverse has an inscription of ONE DOLLAR above an olive sprig (for the peaceful way the territory was acquired); below this is 1803-1903. The legend around reads LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION •ST. LOUIS•

Introduction of the coin.

On March 3rd, 1901 the US government appropriated \$5 million for an exposition. McKinley signed the bill. An Act of Congress on June 28th, 1902 authorized 250,000 gold dollars saying explicitly, “exact words, devices and designs.... shall be determined and prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury”. Originally just a Jefferson bust was intended, but Farran Zerbe, a numismatic impresario and future President of the American Numismatic Association who was chosen as an advisor to the project, suggested two types of gold dollars to increase sales. McKinley’s assassination in 1901 would have been similar to Kennedy’s in 1963 – a shock fresh in people’s minds, hence the decision in 1902 to have his bust on the coin too. Don Taxay (see references) explains “At the Mint, the Act was transformed by bureaucratic legerdemain to provide for two gold dollars. To obscure the illegality of this procedure it was decided to use the same reverse on both coins”.

US Chief Mint Engraver, Charles E. Barber, together with US Mint Assistant Engraver, George Morgan, engraved the dies. Barber used the 1801 Jefferson Peace medal by Reich then in the Mint Cabinet. Reich did it after a bust by Jean Houdon. Barber had sculpted live a McKinley Presidential Medal when McKinley became President, and he used this medal (see right). Augustus Saint-Gaudens mockingly called the medal “deadly”! Cornelius Vermeule (see references) commented the Louisiana Purchase coins showed “a lack of spark”.

75,080 coins were struck in December 1902, which violated the policy of dating the coin they year they were actually struck. In January 1903, 175,178 coins were struck i.e. a total of 250,258 (258 for assay). The first 100 were struck with a proof finish i.e. specially prepared planchets, but it is not known whether there was more than one blow to strike up details as in a proper proof. These were for VIPs.



JEFFERSON PEACE MEDAL JULIAN IP-2; 76.5MM, 227.0 GRAMS MS 65

2620

1801 Peace Medal engraved by Reich, which Charles Barber used as model.



MCKINLEY INAUGURATION MEDAL BY CHARLES E. BARBER 1897 COURTESY OF HERITAGE AUCTIONS HA.COM

Charles Barber’s McKinley Presidential Inauguration medal which he used for the gold \$1 coin. Note the beaded border i.e. circle of dots.

Farran Zerbe, did all the promotions himself and sold the coins for \$3. They sold poorly. He tried mounting them in brooches, on pins, on bracelets etc. Zerbe also proposed a \$1 billion gold coin 40 feet in diameter 30 inches thick weighing over 4 million pounds – of course this never happened but it was part of his flamboyant marketing style! He also sold gold tokens marked with the fractions $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$, which were unofficial, but some thought they were $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ dollars. Thomas Elder, a prominent dealer labeled Zerbe unconscionable and a misleading huckster.

Ultimately the Mint re-melted 215,000 i.e. a net distribution of 35,258 for both types (probably balanced equally between the two types). Actually the Mint melted them in 1914, and until then they kept selling occasional coins. During the fair a few thousand coins sold. Zerbe then sold the rest to numismatists for \$2 each – irritating those who had paid \$3 at the fair and leaving a bad taste in their mouths. B. Max Mehl, the famous coin dealer, bought thousands at just over a dollar each. Mehl and Zerbe sold the coins into the 1920s. But the damage was done. Zerbe's behavior crippled the next 1904-5 Lewis and Clark commemorative gold dollar issue.

The Louisiana Purchase.

In 1803, Congress appropriated \$2 million to buy New Orleans and environs as they were concerned the French could restrict the port, thus crippling trade. President Thomas Jefferson authorized special envoy and future President, James Monroe, to go up to \$10 million if he had to. He ultimately settled at \$15 million, \$11.25 million was for land and the rest to pay off debts. As the government had not authorized that amount of money Congress decided post facto that President Jefferson's powers to do this were "implied", and ratified his decision. Thirteen new states would emerge from this purchase.

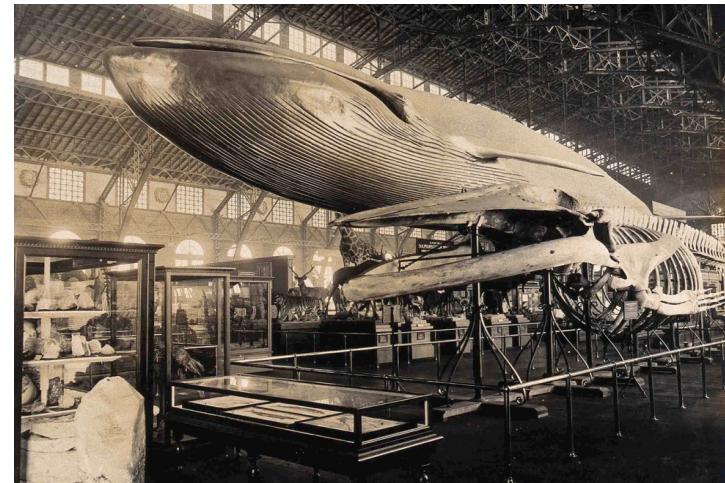


Louisiana Purchase showing central part of present extent of US.

William McKinley (1843-1901) established a law practice in Ohio after the Civil War, then served as a US Congressional Representative from Ohio from 1877 to 1891, and then as Ohio Governor from 1892 to 1896. In 1896 and in 1900 he ran successfully for President as a sound-money Republican against the "free-silverites" under Democratic candidate William Jennings Bryan. McKinley visited the Panama-Pacific Exposition on September 6th, 1901 where Leon Czolgosz, an anarchist, shot him. McKinley died on September 14th. He was the first President to be filmed in the movies.

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) was the third US President. Actually he tied with Aaron Burr (who later shot Hamilton in a duel in 1804) in electoral college votes, but the House of Representatives, as provided for under the Constitution in such a contingency, voted for Jefferson. A man of science and letters, he famously notated his own bible. On his gravestone he did not feel the Presidency was a significant achievement, and specified instead the following list of achievements: Author of the Declaration of American Independence, of the Statute of Virginia for religious freedom, and father of the University of Virginia. Also much discussed was that he fathered six children from his mulatto slave Sally Hemings. Four lived to adulthood, he freed two in the early 1820s and the other two after he died in 1826.

The Louisiana Exposition is usually called the St. Louis World's Fair. It opened late on April 30th, 1904 lasting until December 1st, 1904. Twenty million people visited the fair on 1,272 acres in Forrest Park, St. Louis. It was the largest exposition to date (see Mucha's poster opposite). It boasted fifteen major buildings with four art palaces, fountains, gardens, and exhibits – autos, wireless telegraph, dirigibles and electricity. The agricultural area alone involved nine miles of exhibits! Art works were included from famous numismatic sculptors as well – John Flanagan (Washington quarter), Adolph Weinman (mercury dime and walking liberty half), James Fraser (buffalo nickel), Hermon McNeil (standing liberty quarter), and Daniel Chester French (minute man statue and later on Lexington Concord Commemorative).



Natural History Exhibit with Blue Whale at St. Louis World's Fair.



**French advertising of St. Louis World's Fair by famous artist Mucha.
Note the inquisitive Native American and the advertising that the Fair was
five days by steamer and one day by train from Paris to St. Louis.**



Palace of Liberal Arts at St. Louis World's Fair.



View of St. Louis World's Fair 1904.

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Same as last section plus:

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LEWIS & CLARK EXPO 1905 COMMEN GOLD \$. CLARK/LEWIS. 14MM, 1.67 GRAMS PCGS MS 63

2029

4 Gold only commemoratives. CC G3

Lewis and Clark Exposition 1904-5.

Background

As pivotal as the Louisiana Purchase was, the Lewis and Clark expedition was equally important in documenting the land the US had bought. In fact, when Jefferson became President in 1801 he hired Lewis as his private secretary, not because he could spell, (he could not), but because he was a frontiersman who could explore the west. As the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis was late in 1904, a Lewis and Clark Exposition was planned for 1905.

The coin.

The obverse shows the bust of Lewis facing left with a legend reading LEWIS – CLARK EXPOSITION PORTLAND ORE. •1905• within a dentate border.

The reverse shows the bust of Clark facing left with a legend reading UNITED STATES OF AMERICA •ONE DOLLAR• within a dentate border.

This is the only federal coin with one head on each side.

Introducing the coin.

Farran Zerbe, the “unconscionable huckster” mentioned in the last chapter, pushed legislators for a “Lewis and Clark Centennial and American Pacific Exposition and Oriental Fair” (more than a mouthful!). The Act of April 13th, 1904 surprisingly authorized another 250,000 commemorative gold dollars despite the fact that the year before the “unconscionable huckster” had barely been able to sell 10% of that amount of the Louisiana Purchase gold dollars.

Charles E. Barber, Chief Mint Engraver, engraved busts of Lewis and of Clark, both taken from portraits by Charles Willson Peale (see page 277). Cornelius Vermeule (see references) felt both Charles Barber (Chief Mint Engraver) and George Morgan (Assistant Mint Engraver) were bad artists. Proceeds of the coin sales went for a bronze statue of Sacagawea in Portland, Oregon (see opposite).

Fortunately, the Philadelphia Mint only struck 25,028 coins in 1904 of which 15,003 were re-melted, for a net distribution of 10,025 coins. They struck 35,041 in 1905, despite an order of only 10,000 from the fair. The remaining 25,000 coins were kept on hand in the Philadelphia Mint “in case”, but they ended up re-melting all 25,000 of them, thus the net distribution of the 1905 coins was 10,041. Six to eight 1904 proofs and four to six 1905 proofs were struck.

Numismatists who had been burned by Zerbe in 1904 were not inclined to repeat the experience with the Lewis and Clark gold dollar. This is why only 20,000 total for both dates sold instead of the 35,000 for the Louisiana Purchase gold dollars. The National Bank of Portland, Oregon and other outlets sold the Lewis and Clark gold dollars for \$2 each. Zerbe had no fixed address so used D.M. Averill and Co. in Portland for mail orders. He was constantly on the road trying to sell to dealers. He also sold to the public during the exposition using

his same array of pins, brooches, bracelets, teaspoons etc. he had used to try to peddle the Louisiana Purchase Exposition gold dollars.



Bronze Statue by Alice Cooper in Washington Park Portland Oregon.

When the Lewis and Clark Exposition opened, Zerbe boasted “I am the only man who ever sold 50,000 dollars at \$3 a piece” a double lie. As few numismatists bought the Lewis and Clark coins they are far rarer in uncirculated condition than the Louisiana Purchase coins. As of May 2018 the PCGS and NGC census of Louisiana Purchase gold dollars in grades of MS65 and over are 4,620, whereas the Lewis and Clark (this coin) census is 1,400 i.e. Louisiana Purchase coins are over three times more common in high condition (as well as 3-4 times cheaper). Bear in mind that the rarer the coin and the higher the price the more re-submissions there are of the same coin trying to get a higher graded coin. The census is only of coins submitted for grading, not coins in existence.

Lewis and Clark Exposition 1905.

Tucked away in Portland, Oregon, the Exposition only attracted 2½ million people (by contrast the St. Louis Fair attracted 20 million). It ran from June 1st, to October 14th, 1905. Congress did not designate it an international fair or invite foreign VIPs as they did to St. Louis. There were seven large buildings, many smaller ones, and a midway (sideshows and amusements) attraction to entertain people. Fishing, mining, forestry, arts and manufacturing were all included. The forestry building used Oregon fir including some six feet diameter logs.



Legal Tender Bison \$10 note Fr. 122 VF 30 Accession # 1308

Also, to advertise the Lewis and Clark Exposition, starting in 1901 the red seal Legal Tender \$10 bills had vignettes of Lewis and Clark on the face of the note. Some say the bison is 'Black Diamond', the same bison used as a model for the Indian Head nickel. Others say it was Pablo, sold by Michael Pablo, a Ronan, Montana rancher, to the Washington Zoo in 1897 for \$500. Pablo was originally sketched by Charles Knight, and engraved by Marcus W. Baldwin (1874-1953). Pablo died in 1914. The face also shows vignettes of Lewis and Clark, engraved by G.F.C. Smillie.



Bison on Legal tender \$10 bill.

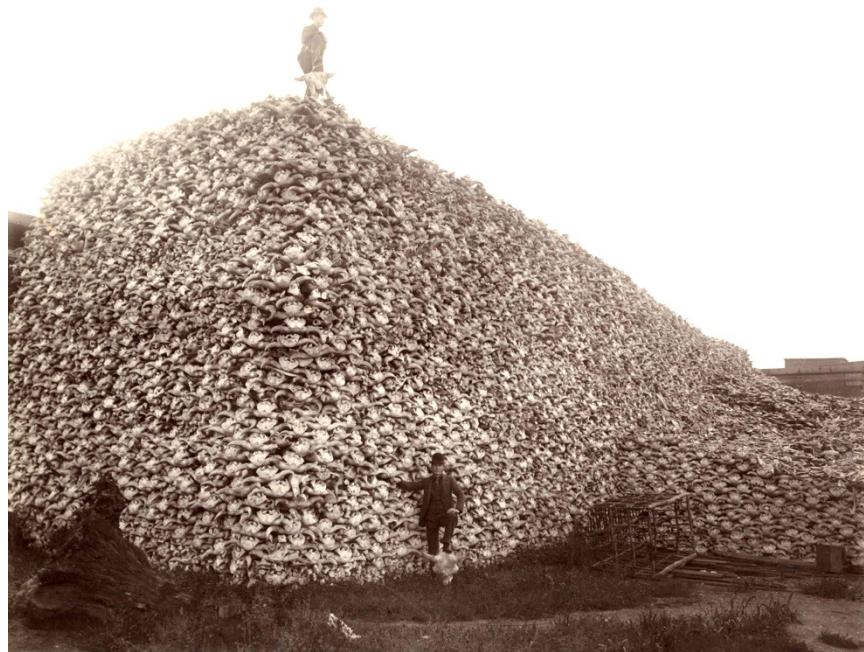
On the back is a female figure representing Columbia standing between two pillars and two scrolls. Semiotics is the theory and study of signs and symbols. If we study it further, the female figure is holding a thunderbolt, a symbol of military might. This could suggest the bison note bespeaks the post-civil war union military's feeling of power, possibly over the Plains Indians in ridding the population of bison to bring the Native Americans to their knees.



Back of Legal Tender Bison \$10 note.

The near-extinction of the bison was seminal to the subduing of Native Americans. For decades the federal government espoused the killing of bison. Railroads travelling west carried passengers that were encouraged to shoot bison for fun. The carcasses accumulated, and the skins and bones were sold for whatever white men could get. The federal government paid hunters to shoot millions of bison to reduce the population to engineer Native American dependence on the government rather than their continued independence.

The bison were a storehouse of life's necessities for Plains Indians. The flesh was food, the hide was clothing and shelter, the bones were houses, hunting and farming implements. The Union Pacific Railroad was instrumental in wiping out many herds. They offered \$1 to \$3 each for the hides, simply to destroy the lifeblood of the Indians. About 13 million bison were killed by 1883. When the herds were all but gone the protest finally reached the ears of the whites. By 1900 there were only a few hundred left. Even now, after conservation efforts, bison numbers are only back to the tens of thousands.



Pile of Bison Skulls and Bones from National Park Service Archives Mid 1870s

Teddy Roosevelt said in 1893, “*After the ending of the Civil War, the work of constructing trans-continental railway lines was pushed forward with the utmost vigor. These supplied cheap and indispensable, but hitherto wholly lacking means of transportation to the hunters; and at the same time the demand for buffalo robes and hides became very great, while the enormous numbers of the beasts, and the comparative ease with which they were slaughtered, attracted throngs of adventurers. The result was such a slaughter of big game as the world had never before seen; never before were so many large animals of one species destroyed in so short a time. Several million buffaloes were slain. In fifteen years from the time the destruction fairly began, the great herds were exterminated. In all probability there are not now [1893], all told, five hundred head of wild buffaloes on the American continent; and no herd of a hundred individuals has been in existence since*”.

Lewis and Clark are also depicted on the Bison note. On the left is the portrait of Meriwether Lewis by Charles Willson Peale in 1807, and on the right is William Clark’s portrait also by Peale in 1810. Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) engraver, G.F.C. Smillie, engraved both portraits on the note, clearly taken from Peale’s paintings,

The series of 1901 note was designed to stimulate interest in the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland, Oregon in 1905. Opposite is a comparison of Peale’s portraits, Smillie’s vignettes from the \$10 Legal Tender Bison note, and the 1905 Lewis and Clark gold commemorative coin.





Anna
 Best wishes to your
 future at stars
 strong in the field of
 Native Americans
 Sincerely
 Peter Jones
 7/01

Peter Jones, author, with Randy'L Teton in 2001, model for the Sacagawea Dollar.
The paper I am holding in my right hand is reproduced below. My wife, Ann, is a
Native American collector so it is addressed to her. The four marks to the right of
her signature represent track marks associated with her tribe.

Shoshone Native American, Sacagawea, was finally depicted on a dollar in 2000 by artist Glenna Goodacre. Although the 2000 dated dollars initially tarnished horribly the metal was later specially treated to prevent this.



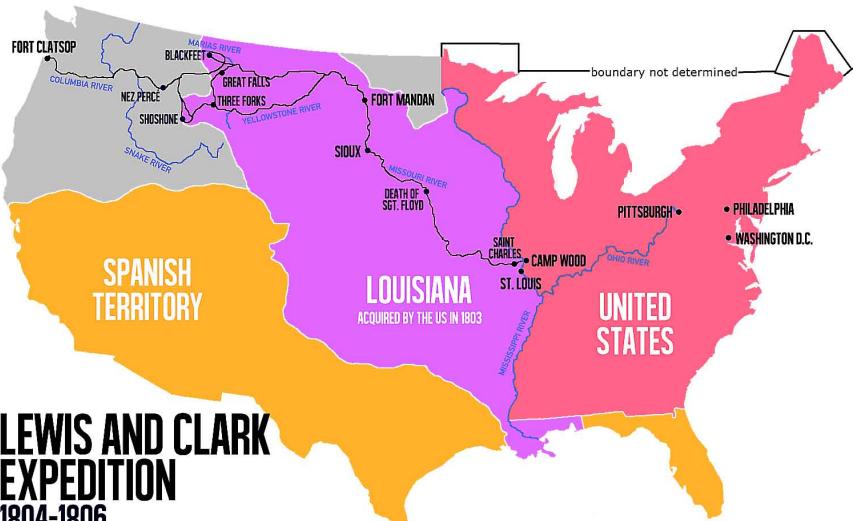
Sacagawea dollar – this style was issued 2000-2008, since then the reverse was replaced by Native American devices.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie was the first European to lead an expedition to the Pacific in Canada 1789 – 1793. In 1803, Jefferson bought French Louisiana from France for \$15 million as Napoleon was short of cash. Even before he doubled the size of the US he had congress appropriate \$2,500 for an expedition to explore the territory. The idea of the expedition was scientific: to study botany, geography, Indian tribes, wildlife, check out British and French settlers and specially to see if there was a river route that traversed the continent.

Jefferson appointed his secretary Captain Meriwether Lewis, as leader of the expedition. William Clark was an old friend of Lewis', having previously served under him in an Indian campaign. Clark was a Second Lieutenant at the onset of the expedition but because of bureaucratic delays was not promoted to Captain. Nevertheless, Lewis, a man of honor, addressed him as Captain and insisted he was co-leader.

Lewis' expedition, formally known as the 'Corps of Discovery', left Pittsburgh in August 1803. They took ten weeks to descend the Ohio River to Camp Dubois, Illinois where about 45 men overwintered and trained till May 1804, then met up with Lewis in a 55-foot keelboat and two dugout canoes. Together they started up the Missouri River from Saint Charles, Missouri (see map opposite). La Charrette, 50 miles west, was the last white settlement on the Missouri River at the time.

By August they reached the Great Plains in Sioux territory. The Great Plains was bison country. The Sioux were hostile, demanding the expedition's boat as a bribe to pass through their territory. After 1,600 miles they overwintered with the Mandan tribe where they built a fort (near present day Bismarck, ND). They also met a French-Canadian trapper Toussaint Charbonneau whose teenage Shoshone wife, Sacagawea, thereafter translated for and guided the expedition.



LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION 1804-1806



Westward Journey Commemorative Nickel dated 2004, showing keelboat.

In April 1805 part of the expedition returned with reports and botanical, zoological and geological specimens. The remaining expedition continued west, up the Missouri River. They then bought horses from the Shoshone Indians and rode over the Continental Divide at Lemhi Pass.

In August 1805 on the other side of the Divide they crossed the Rockies with a guide. By September 1805 they found the Clearwater River, the Snake River, and then the Columbia River. After traveling 4,000 miles they finally reached the Pacific in November 1805. They again overwintered on the southern bank of the Columbia River (in present day Astoria, Oregon) where they built Fort Clatsop.

It seems reasonable now to follow a river west to its origin, then cross over the continental divide to find a river draining into the Pacific. But at that time they

had not appreciated this geographic point and thought there might have been a navigable body of water stretching all the way from east to west.

They began the return journey back east in March 1806, soon abandoning their dug-out canoes as too cumbersome for portage. In July, after crossing the Continental Divide they split into two groups. Meriwether Lewis' group of four explored the Marias River and met some cordial Blackfeet Indians, who tried to steal their arms resulting in the only Native American deaths (of two men). Lewis' group fled for 100 miles before they camped again.

Meanwhile Clark's group explored the Yellowstone River then entered Crow territory, where they lost half their horses to Crow thieves. In August Lewis and Clark met up at the junction of Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers. One of Clark's hunters mistook Lewis for an elk, and shot him in the thigh.

The expedition personnel, all heroes at the time to Americans (but not to Native Americans), reached home in St. Louis, Missouri, in September 1806. They had mapped the rivers, described 178 plants and 122 animals, and initiated relationships with Native Americans. America was now entranced with the west and politicians started to think about Oregon territories becoming part of the US.

But after the expedition it was clear there was no waterway from East to West. The water to the West of the Continental Divide flowed into the Pacific Ocean, and the waters of the East into the Atlantic Ocean and Mexican Gulf. Lewis also discovered that the Great Plains were then too dry to farm and that the Plains Indians were hostile and would block settlement and trade.

On return, Jefferson appointed his secretary, Meriwether Lewis, first governor of Louisiana Territory. Later Lewis speculated in land, ran into debt, made political enemies, became depressed, drank heavily, and may have had syphilis of the brain. While riding back to Washington in 1809 aged 35 he died mysteriously of a gunshot wound possibly suicide.

Lewis' friend, Clark, made the maps and drawings of the expedition and organized the publication of the diaries in 1814. He later became Governor of Missouri Territory 1813 – 1821 and died in St Louis aged 68.

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MCKINLEY MEMORIAL 1917 COMMEMORATIVE GOLD \$. MCKINLEY/MEMORIAL. 14MM, 1.67 GRAMS PCGS MS 65

2030

4 Gold only commemoratives. CC G8

McKinley Memorial 1916 - 1917.

Background

The National McKinley Birthplace Memorial Association (NMBMA) of Youngstown, Ohio, decided somewhat belatedly that a memorial was needed for McKinley after his assassination in 1901. It is not known why the date of 1916 to 1917 was selected, but 1917 was the 75th anniversary of McKinley's birth. The legislation in Congress asked for a silver dollar. But Col. Joseph Butler pointed out that McKinley was elected for his support of the gold standard and against free-silverites! Accordingly, a gold dollar was proposed.

The coin.

The obverse shows the head of McKinley facing left, with a legend •UNITED• STATES•OF•AMERICA• above, and McKINLEY• DOLLAR below.

The reverse shows a façade of the McKinley Memorial building. The legend reads McKINLEY BIRTHPLACE MEMORIAL NILES OHIO 1917

Introducing the coin.

On February 23rd, 1916, Congress passed an Act, which provided for not more than 100,000 gold dollars. In 1914 the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) cooperated with the Treasury Department for the first time on coin design for the Panama Pacific commemorative coins. Before this the Mint Engravers alone determined the designs. It did not help that the Chief Engraver Charles E. Barber, and Assistant Chief Engraver George Morgan, were both weak artists.

In 1914 the Congressional Act for the Pan-Pac coins said that the "Secretary of the Treasury shall prepare the designs". The Mint Director George Roberts wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury William McAdoo suggesting the CFA, who suggested a list of outside artists. But the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury William Malburn, rejected all the designs. McAdoo agreed with him. So the Mint had Charles Barber do all the coins.

So in 1916 the Mint Director submitted Charles Barber's obverse and George Morgan's reverse designs for the McKinley dollar to the CFA without any outside input. The CFA suggested changes. These were ignored after the above fiasco. The Mint did not like the CFA muscling in on their territory. One would not recognize Barber's McKinley as being the same man as he engraved on the 1903 Louisiana Purchase dollar. Morgan's reverse lettering was too big, and Walter Breen and Anthony Swiatek (see references) show a blown up portion of the building exposing the slovenly engraving. Cornelius Vermeule (see references) also lambasted the coin.

In August and October of 1916 20,026 coins dated 1916 were struck at the Philadelphia Mint (yes! 26 for assay!). In February 1917 10,014 additional coins dated 1917 were struck (yes, you have guessed it, 14 for assay!).

The Commission sold around 8,000 of the 1916 dated coins at \$3 each and coin dealer B. Max Mehl sold 7,000 at \$2.50 each. The remaining 5,000 were remelted. The next year the Commission sold 2,000 examples of the 1917 coin, and Mehl sold 3,000. The remaining 5,000 1917-dated coins were re-melted. The Commission recognized early on that there was no way numismatists would buy 100,000 coins. The Mint never accounted for which dates were re-melted, but it is felt today probably 15,000 1916 coins and 5,000 1917 coins were distributed. 1917 was the proper date for a 75th anniversary of McKinley's birth. Probably around six brilliant proofs were made.

The birthplace memorial was actually built!



McKinley Birthplace Memorial left, and statue in courtyard right.

What was the gold standard and free silver all about?

By 1890, 253 million silver dollars had been minted. The silver value of a silver dollar dropped to 73 cents of gold.

The rise and fall of the Free-Silverites.

The Populist Party united the American Federation of Labor (founded in 1886), the Grange movement, Free Silverites, and the Greenbackers. Their planks were:

- Nationalize the railroads, and the telegraph and telephone industries because of the owners' greed and price gouging.
- Reverse deflation by increasing the money supply by the "free" coinage of silver. Re-monetize silver at 16:1 with gold and resume bimetallism. This meant a silver dollar of 16 times 1.5 grams i.e. 24 grams (not the then current 22.5 grams) of silver to a dollar of subsidiary coinage.
- Election of Senators by popular vote. Previously, special interests like railroads or grain elevator companies had undue influence over the election of Senators under the system in place.
- A new sub-treasury plan – farmers would store grain in government owned elevators and borrow at 1% against their grain and sell late

during the year, when the market was higher not only at harvest time when prices were lower. This previously benefitted elevator owners but now would benefit farmers.

- A graduated income tax.
- An eight-hour work-day and a ban on immigrants (often used as strike breakers). These two points were to appeal to townspeople, although few townspeople actually voted.

The populists also used the war cry of the “Crime of 1873”. When the Coinage Act of 1873 passed, it legalized the fact that US subsidiary coinage, i.e. silver coins below a dollar in value, would have permanently reduced silver content. Populists wanted inflation - an expanded money supply. The opposing Gold Bugs favored continued deflation and no free silver coinage. The rich got richer and the poor got poorer; the number of farmers decreased. The farmers quoted Jefferson, “farming is the backbone of America”. They had taken out loans to pay for their farm machinery. But as years went on, because of deflation, the machines were worth less, the crops fetched less, and the loans cost more, thus crippling farmers.

Finally, in 1890, the Populists, driven by impoverished farmers who had now suffered a series of droughts, influenced Republican Ohio Senator John Sherman to pass the Silver Purchase Act (Sherman was also the author of the famous Anti-Trust Act the same year to limit monopolies). Sherman was brother of General William Tecumseh Sherman; his other brother was an Ohio Federal judge, John Sherman, nicknamed “The Ohio Icicle”. Senator John Sherman horse traded with Western congressmen: Western congressmen agreed to vote for the Republican McKinley Tariff Act if Eastern Gold Bugs voted for the Sherman Silver Purchase Act. The McKinley Tariff taxed imports at 48.4% to try to help Eastern Industrialists (though it raised prices of farm equipment further demoralizing farmers).

Although the Sherman Silver Purchase Act did not result in the unlimited coinage of silver the Populists wanted, it increased the Federal government’s purchase requirements from two million to 4.5 million ounces of silver bullion per month. Congress authorized paying for it with new banknotes – Treasury Notes – which could be redeemed for silver or gold. However, the price of silver continued to fall because the mines were then producing more than the government could buy.

The Free Silverites had not anticipated what would happen: Americans (especially mining interests) and foreigners alike preferred gold to silver, because the intrinsic gold worth of silver in the silver dollar was now quite low (73 cents by 1890). Furthermore, Treasury Notes (also called Coin Notes) were redeemable in any coin - silver or gold. Thus American citizens paid taxes in silver and Silver Certificates, not in gold; western mining interests cashed in their Treasury Notes for gold; and foreigners demanded gold dollars not silver dollars in payment for goods. The United States Treasury stocks of gold soon dwindled.



Left Republican Senator John Sherman. Right J.P. Morgan, very self-conscious about his severe skin disease called rosacea, with an ugly bulbous puckerred nose called rhinophyma. He is seen here threatening a photographer.

By 1893, treasury gold reserves fell below the hundred-million-dollar mark. Americans and foreigners feared the government would stop gold payments and this lead to a financial panic. President Grover Cleveland summoned a special session of Congress, who decided to repeal the Sherman Silver Purchase Act because it was draining US Treasury gold reserves.

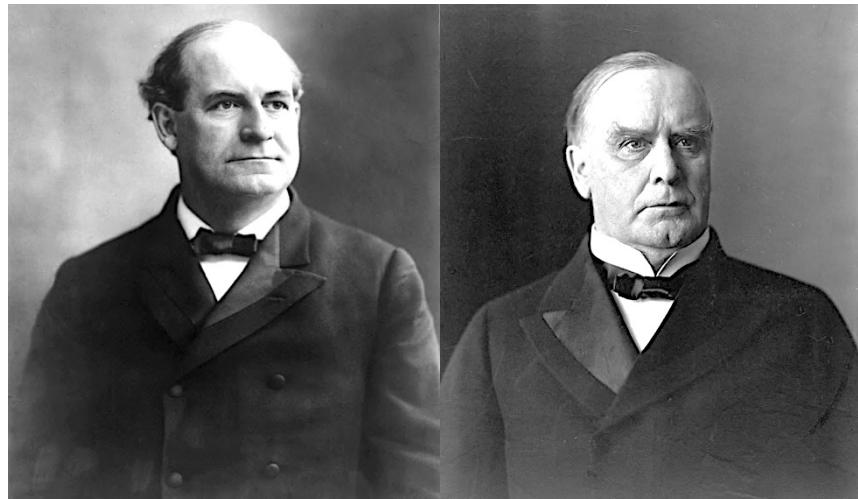
Actually, even before the repeal of the Silver Purchase Act in 1893, Morgan dollar mintage had decreased. (Morgan dollars were named after the mint engraver not after J.P. Morgan). From 1878 (the beginning of Morgan dollar production) until 1892, twenty to forty million Morgan dollars a year were minted. But in 1892 six million were minted, and from 1893 to 1895 only one to three million a year were minted.

Clearly the US government could not continue paying western silver miners in gold so Democratic President, Grover Cleveland, asked J.P. Morgan, the richest man in America, to buy gold for the government. Morgan used his own wealth and his financial network to form a private consortium to bail out the government treasury with \$65 million in gold. Ultimately Morgan did well out of the deal too.

However, the rescue of the treasury with gold damaged Democratic President Cleveland and William Jennings Bryan took over as democratic nominee for the 1896 elections against Republican Presidential nominee McKinley. Bryan’s Democratic Party had absorbed the Populists. At the National Democratic convention in Chicago Bryan said, “You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns; you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold”. This became known as the “Cross of Gold” speech. But by 1896 more gold had been found in the Klondike, in Yukon, Canada, which further increased money supply. “Free silver” never really got off the ground and never halted deflation.

In 1900, President McKinley signed into law the Gold Standard Act. America was now on a legal gold standard. This put an end to the Free Silverites. Silver dollars were left at 24.06 grams of fine silver per silver dollar, but the gold-silver ratio did not matter anymore. In 1896 gold was found in South Africa. This together with US and Canadian gold markedly expanded the world gold supply through 1914 leading to 40% inflation. The US was becoming more mechanized and more urbanized. In 1890 one farmer had fed 4.8 urbanites, but by 1910 one farmer fed 6.6 urbanites, and urbanites had almost doubled.

The economy had changed from agrarian with insufficient bullion backing of the money supply, to industrial with plentiful gold backing of the money supply.



Left Democratic William Jennings Bryan, right Republican William McKinley

Silver after the Gold Act of 1900.

In 1918, the Pittman Act led to the melting of 270 million silver dollars from which the recovered bullion was sold to Britain at \$1 per ounce. This permitted the redemption of British silver certificates presented for exchange in India, thus ending rumors of insolvency which had been generated by the Germans.

By destroying more than 270 million silver dollars, the United States lost the value of these coins and had to withdraw the silver certificates outstanding against them. It also had to replace this value in circulation. Ultimately, the dollars that had been removed from circulation were re-coined from newly mined silver between 1921 and 1928. The US Mint initially employed the old "Morgan" dollar design in 1921 and then started the "Peace" dollar design in late 1921. As usual these silver dollars resided mostly untouched in vaults.

Silver reached a high of \$1.37 an ounce from speculation but then dropped to a low of \$0.24 per ounce in 1923 - when silver was no longer pegged as currency it was free to float in value. In inflation adjusted terms its value has trended down ever since 1900 to the present day. It is interesting to note that the store of value for middle class families for so many generations had been the family

silver. A 100-ounce sterling silver service for eight used to represent 6,500 hours of labor earnings in the US in 1790. Today it represents about 50 hours of labor.

The Wall Street Crash of 1929 was followed by a severe depression and deflation that lasted until the Second World War. In 1933 newly elected president Franklin D. Roosevelt faced the closure of 8,000 banks. He thought the problem of deflation would go away by expanding the money supply, and he could do this by printing extra paper money. So he decided to make the private holding of gold illegal allowing the government to hold all the gold to back the paper currency he printed.

On March 9th, 1933 Roosevelt published an executive order calling for a \$10,000 fine or 10 years in prison if a person kept gold coin, gold bullion, or gold certificates. In July, Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau, added that there could be an exemption for rare or collectible gold, industrial, artistic, or professional use like dentistry or jewelry. In 1934, the Gold Reserve Act specified that gold was to be valued at \$35 per ounce, rather than the previous \$22.67 an ounce, to encourage the public to give up as much gold as possible including jewelry. Roosevelt did not want hoarding of gold with the resultant loss of confidence in paper.

Thus Roosevelt stopped the ability of private citizens to claim gold for their paper money. He did not take America off the gold standard as England had done in 1931. US money was still backed by government held gold (though valued at \$35 not \$22.67 per ounce of pure gold). Now Roosevelt could print as much paper money as he wanted without worrying that citizens would hoard gold instead and lose confidence in paper money. Thus in 1933 the US adopted again (as it had during the civil war) a de facto fiat paper currency. After all, Roosevelt had already revalued gold at whatever he wanted!

Also in 1933 the Thomas Amendment of the Agricultural Adjustment Act again allowed the government to buy subsidized silver from western miners, which lead to the coinage of additional peace dollars in 1934 and 1935.

Silver coinage continued as a tradition only with over \$800 million in silver coins minted in the 1930s when silver was selling on the free market for 25 to 75 cents per ounce. From 1934 to 1937 the treasury acquired 1,600 million ounces of silver. Another 1,600 million ounces was added from 1937 to 1960.

During the Second World War demand stimulated the US economy thus bringing an end to the depression and deflation. In 1945 the Bretton Woods agreement specified that the US dollar would be at a fixed ratio with other currencies, and that foreigners could redeem their currency for gold (held in the US) set at \$35.03 per ounce.

The following table shows the weights of fine silver and fine gold in coinage and their relationships from 1792 to 1934. (Silver was actually 24.06 not 24 grams per dollar because the calculations were in grains).

<u>Year</u>	<u>Grams silver per \$</u>	<u>Grams Gold per \$</u>	<u>Ratio</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1792	24.06	1.6	15	Bimetallism. People hoarded gold or silver depending on commodity market value but mostly people hoarded gold
1834	24.06	1.5	16	Bimetallism
1853 major	24.06	1.5	16	Bimetallism No change in major coinage
1853 minor	22.4	1.5		Minor silver coinage debased at 22.4 but still full weight dollar at 24.06
1873 minor	22.5	1.5		Minor silver coinage changed from 22.4 to 22.5, but still debased against old 24.06 standard. Major coinage (dollar) removed (crime of 1873) . De facto gold standard
1878 major	24.06	1.5	16	Major coinage (dollar) reinstated at 24.06. De facto gold standard
1878 minor	22.5	1.5		Minor coinage still debased at 22.5
1900	24.06	1.5	-	Gold Standard official. Gold set at \$22.67 per ounce.
1934	24.06	0.886		Private holding of gold officially ends for individuals. Paper currency backed by gold at \$35 per ounce.
Trade\$ 1873	24.5			Trade dollar use prohibited in US. Issued only for overseas use.

Table of bullion relationships of US Coinage. Major = \$1, minor = smaller coins

William McKinley.

William McKinley (1843 – 1901) was born in Niles, Ohio, one of nine children. His father and grandfather were both iron manufacturers. McKinley graduated from Poland Seminary, Ohio, and then went to Allegheny College, Pennsylvania. In 1861 at the age of 18 he enlisted as a private. His superior officer Rutherford Hayes, future US President, promoted him to Sergeant and again to Second Lieutenant for bravery. He later became aide-de-camp to Hayes, and developed a friendship. He left the army in 1865 as brevet major.

After the civil war he attended Albany law school and was admitted to the bar in 1867 in Canton, Ohio. At the age of 28 he married Ida Saxton. In 1876 he defended 33 striking miners who were imprisoned for rioting and got 32 of them freed. He refused to accept their payment. From 1877 to 1882 and from 1885 to 1891 he was US Congressman from Ohio as a Republican. In 1890 he

engineered the McKinley Tariff Act which raised import tariffs to 49.5% (though the Act also provided for trade reciprocity). The Act was so unpopular that it led to the Democratic landslide victory in the congressional elections later that year. At that time the Republicans wanted protectionist tariffs for domestic manufacturing and to use the money for infrastructure. Democrats wanted to decrease tariffs and decrease spending.



\$10 Series of 1902 National Bank Note Fr 660 showing vignette of McKinley

In 1890, McKinley lost his congressional seat in the Democratic landslide but in 1891 was elected Governor of Ohio for two terms. He taxed corporations and helped unions and labor. But labor was suspicious and did not return the favors.

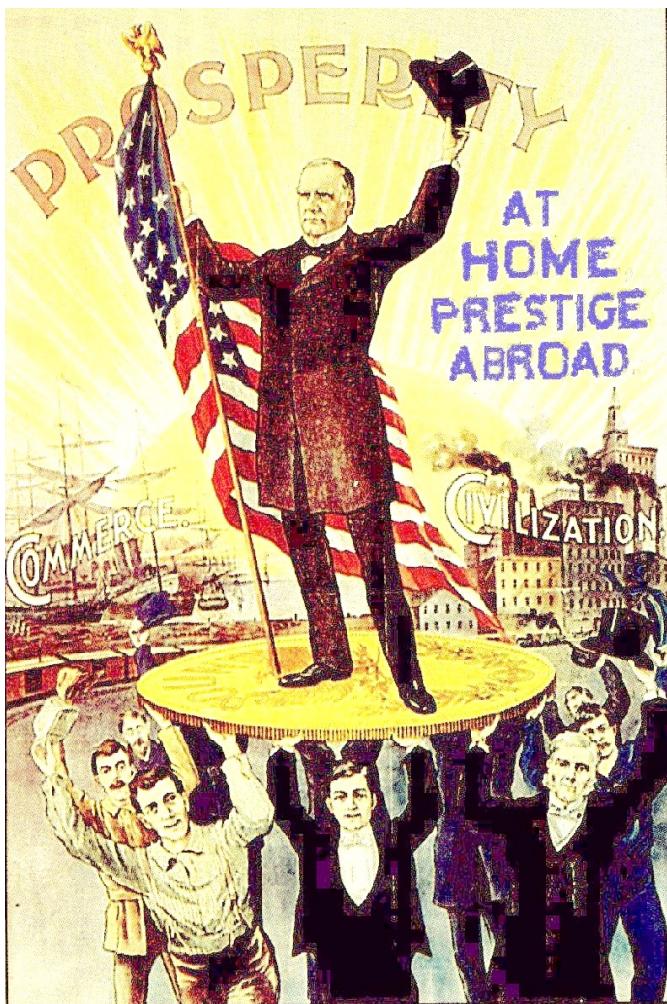
In 1895, a group of destitute miners asked for his help. Within hours, McKinley sent a rail wagon of supplies which he paid for out of his own pocket. He investigated how many Ohioans were starving, and he raised charitable donations for food and clothing for over 10,000 poverty-stricken Ohioans.

In 1896, he was elected President following his famous “front porch” campaign. His friend and manager Marcus Hanna, a wealthy industrialist with connections to big business, was proactive with novel marketing techniques. Hanna had delegations totaling 750,000 people visit McKinley on his porch over time. At the time it was considered crass for the campaigning President to travel. His opponent was Democrat William Jennings Bryan, who toured 18,000 miles by rail giving flamboyant speeches on free silver.

McKinley favored a gold standard. Foreigners wanted to be paid only in gold. But McKinley was a compromiser that accommodated gold bugs, free silverites and Greenbackers. Gold bugs wanted only gold backing of currency. Free silverites wanted silver coin backing of currency. Greenbackers wanted paper money printing without worrying about backing. Actually McKinley initially favored a bimetallic currency but later abandoned bimetallism and became a gold bug.

Luckily for McKinley business and agriculture surged. The long depression of 1873 – 1896 was over. He tried to reform civil service jobs with people qualified by exam, but was opposed by the Department of War.

Because of a US budget deficit, the Dingley Tariff Act in 1897 raised the import tariffs from 20%, back up to 50%, though still providing for trade reciprocity. With this McKinley hoped to compete effectively in world markets using a system of trusts at home and abroad, especially in China, Hawaii, and Latin America.



McKinley Campaign Poster 1900 depicting McKinley on a gold coin.

William Randolph Hearst's sensationalist papers publicized stories of Spanish atrocities against Cuban rebels. Democrats cried out for war. Republican business interests did not want war. But to protect US business interests around Havana, the newly commissioned USS Maine was sent to Havana harbor. In 1898 it suddenly exploded and sank, killing 260 men, probably from a faulty boiler. But Democrats and the tabloids pushed for war saying the Maine must have been attacked by the Spanish. Congress voted for the Spanish-American war in 1898. The US took Cuba losing only 379 men.

Admiral Dewey defeated the Spanish fleet in the Philippines. The US also gained Samoa, Guam, and Puerto Rico. In 1899 the US sent 120,000 men to put down a three-year Philippine revolt, thus taking the Philippines. Hawaii was also annexed. This led to arguments about whether the US should free these countries or annex them. The pro-annexation forces won the day.

McKinley was the first President to use both the telephone and telegraph to communicate with battlefield commanders and reporters. He was an effective commander-in-chief and had to step in to take over from the incompetent Secretary of War, Russell Alger. To safeguard trading rights in China, McKinley sent "open door notes" to major powers in 1899 and 1900, persuading other countries that the US expected all nations to respect US trading rights and not to discriminate against each other. Further, China was to be respected as an independent country not carved up by Western interests.

In 1900, he was re-elected President with Teddy Roosevelt as Vice President. In 1901 at the Pan American Exposition in Buffalo, New York, he was assassinated with two pistol shots fired by an anarchist, Leon Czolgosz. McKinley died eight days later from a wound infection. He was succeeded by his Vice President Teddy Roosevelt. Anarchists today preach self-government, but back then initiated unions to help labor.

McKinley liked to wear a pink carnation in his lapel. His second inauguration was the first one ever filmed.

Major advances during his term were: The Gold Standard Act of 1900; the Spanish American War 1899 taking over Cuba, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Guam and Samoa; the annexation of Hawaii; the end of the long depression of 1873 - 1896; the open door policy to China; the Dingley Tariff Bill of 1897; and using pragmatism and compromise to unite and lead the Republican Party.

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<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/6d/Mckinley.jpg>



NORSE AMERICAN CENTENNIAL 1925 THICK SILVER MEDAL NORSEMAN/VIKING BOAT. 19.86 GRAMS, 31MM UNC

1600

CHAPTER TEN

Other quasi-commemoratives. CC Alt 1 is the CAL Quarter Eagle. CC Alt 2 is Norse-American Medal 1925.

Background

The usual classical commemorative collection is a type collection of silver, with or without gold coins. However other coins and one medal can also be considered in the series, and I start with the 1925 Norse American Medal.

The coin.

The obverse shows a facing Viking chieftain coming ashore on a beach (presumably Leif Ericson to Vinland around 1000 CE). He is in full battle regalia except that they did not actually wear horned helmets in battle; they were just ceremonial (some say Viking never wore horned helmets). Some Norse-Americans objected to the drawings of the design published in the *Minneapolis Journal* in March 1925, saying it implied that Norwegian-Americans still dressed like that! Above is the legend NORSE AMERICAN CENTENNIAL. The date 1825 is to the left, and the date 1925 to the right of Ericson.

The reverse shows a Viking ship with full crew at sea. The inscription is AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND BELOW A•D•1000. To the left of the helm is OPUS FRASER (the work of James Earle Fraser). The ship is moving to the right with the wind coming from the left.

Interestingly the event they were celebrating (the 1825 arrival of Restaurasjon, the ship the Norwegians came over in) does not feature on the medal. Instead the medal romanticized Leif Ericson and the old Viking ship to stimulate Norse-American ethnic pride. Of course it also sends an important message: The Norse were probably the first Europeans to arrive in North America in 1000 CE in Vinland, in present-day Newfoundland, the St. Lawrence Gulf and New Brunswick. There is legend that an Irish monk, Saint Brendan of Clonfert sailed to America in the sixth century.



Recreated Viking longhouse, L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site, Newfoundland



Photo of Gokstad Viking ship at Chicago World's Columbian Exposition 1893. This was used by James Earle Fraser to sculpt the medal's reverse.

Introducing the coin.

Interestingly, of the five commemorative coin books in the reference section, only Swiatek's *Commemorative Coins of the US*, discusses the Norse medal.

US Congressional Representative from Minnesota, Ole Juulson Kvale, was a Lutheran minister and proud Norse-American, and was son of Norwegian immigrants. He wanted to celebrate Norse heritage, and also happened to be on the Coinage, Weights and Measures Committee of the House. He asked the Treasury Department about a commemorative coin. They said they would oppose it. The reason for this was that in 1924 the Huguenot-Walloon commemorative half dollar, was widely seen as Protestant propaganda contradicting the separation of Church and State. They did not want anything to do with any more religious statements on US coins.

Kvale met with the Treasury Department and with Mint Director, Mary O'Reilly, who responded to his suggestion of a medal instead, but said a small medal would be too close to a half or quarter dollar and might be confused with change. Kvale's son Paul suggested an octagonal medal, which suited everyone.

Kvale introduced a bill on February 4th, 1925, which became an Act March 2nd, which specified not more than 40,000 medals. The Norse-American Commission wanted to celebrate the centennial of the arrival of Restaurasjon, the ship that first brought a group of Norwegian immigrants to America in 1825. Kvale wanted Borglum to sculpt the models, but Borglum was too busy so Kvale chose James Earle Fraser who was paid \$1,500. The models were approved by the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) on 15th April, except they suggested removing a "the" on the inscription.

The centennial was celebrated June 6th to 9th, 1925, in the Minnesota State fairgrounds. Their slogan was "The Norsemen are coming!" It was attended by President Coolidge, who gave the usual speeches. There was some sensitivity around the issue. The Norse-Americans had been accused of being anti-war during the First World War, and this damaged their civic pride, which Kvale was very keen to repair.



Ole Juulson Kvale

Six thousand thin octagonal medals (1.6mm, weighing 12.40 grams) were struck from May 21st to 23rd. Anthony Swiatek theorizes the Commission may have been dissatisfied with the thin medals or saw an opportunity to sell two varieties, hence switching production to thick medals. The thin medals sold for perhaps \$1.75 each.

At any case, the Mint then struck 33,750 thick octagonal medals (2mm, weighing 19.57 grams) from May 29th to June 13th. The Norse-American

Commission could not sell all of these so 2,000 were returned to the Norse-American Commission treasurer, it is not known if he sent these to the mint for re-melting. These sold for \$1.25 each.

On June 3rd to 4th, the Mint struck 100 gold matte proof medals of which 47 were later re-melted. These sold for \$20 each.

The thin medals cost the Norse-American Commission 30¢ each, the thick 45¢ each, and the gold \$10.14 each, and of course the models from Fraser cost \$1,500. Profits went to the Centennial. The medals were sent to the Fourth National Bank of Philadelphia and all sold by mail order, none were sold in person or at the Centennial Fair in June.

During the advertising the Norse-American Commission had stated that this was the only medal authorized by Congress. However, in October Mint Director Robert Grant told Kvale that in fact the 1876 Independence Centennial Exposition was the first medal to be legislated by Congress, and it came in several different sizes. This got Kvale thinking: we need a new three-inch medal for display purposes like museums.

He told J.A. Holvik, secretary of the Norse-American Commission. Holvik, a professor, was vehemently against it but was outvoted by everyone else on the Commission. Accordingly, they ordered 50 three-inch medals. In December, 75 three-inch medals were struck in copper (presumably the extra 25 were because 30 were reserved to be mailed to VIPs including President Coolidge). For reasons known only to Kvale these were immediately silver plated as soon as they left the mint (perhaps he thought silver looked classier than bronze).



1876 CENTENNIAL EXPO PHILADELPHIA GILT COPPER. JULIAN-CM II; 57.7MM, 107.1 GRAMS UNC

2586

1st Congressionally authorized medal - 1876 Centennial of American Independence.

The Restauration.

On July 4th, 1825, the Restauration, a sloop built in 1801, left Stavanger, Norway. Lars Larsen led the expedition of 52 people on board. Most were Quakers. They first anchored off an English coastal village where they traded rum for goods. Off the Madeira Islands they found a cask of fine madeira wine floating in the water, which they much enjoyed.

They arrived in New York City October 9th. Port authorities seized the ship because the maximum allowed occupancy for its size was 21! The captain, L.O. Helland, was arrested, the ship impounded and a fine levied. They should have thrown the extra people overboard before they arrived! As no one spoke English, President Quincy Adams pardoned them. Cleng Peerson, a Norwegian, who at the Quakers' request had gone to America in 1821 as an advance person, met them

With their ship returned to them, they sailed up the Hudson River to the Rochester area where they settled on land they had bought in Kendall, Orleans County, about 35 miles northwest of Rochester, and close to Lake Ontario.

A replica of the Restauration was built in Finnøy, Norway 2010 and is now used for education and charters today in Rogaland, Norway. I have not been able to find a picture of the ship on the internet.



US Postage stamps with engraving of Restauration and Viking ship. Note American flag on right of Viking ship!

There were two commemorative stamps - a two-cent stamp for standard US domestic letters, and a five-cent stamp for overseas letters. No authentic image of what the Restauration looked like could be found. The image for the 2 cent stamp was taken from a Norwegian magazine clipping purporting to be a sister ship of the Restauration. No one knows who decided to place a Viking ship on the 5 cent stamp. It seems there was no request from the officials of the Norse-American Centennial Committee or by the US Post Office Dept. Apparently the decision was made internally by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. It was unusual as the Centennial Celebration had nothing to do with Vikings or with Leif Ericsson ca.1000 AD. However, it does parallel the imagery on the medal.



Replica of Restauration being built in Norway.

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LINCOLN WHEAT CENT 1909 VDB. BR 2052; 19.13 MM, 3.17 GRAMS AU58

96

Other quasi-commemoratives. CC Alt 3

1909 Lincoln Cent.

Background.

President Theodore Roosevelt felt US coinage was inartistic. So in 1905 he hired Augustus Saint-Gaudens to redesign the cent and the four circulating US gold coins. Saint-Gaudens unfortunately died in 1907 before he could complete the cent design. In 1909 the US Mint engaged Brenner, an outside artist, rather than have the same, tired, old designs of then Chief Mint Engraver Charles E. Barber. The lowly cent or "penny" had been the first coin ever commissioned by Continental Congress in 1787. It was called the Fugio cent. Washington would later refuse to have his portrait on a coin for fear of imitating European monarchies, and this led to the tradition of simply a stylized "Liberty", which ultimately became artistically boring.

The coin.

The obverse shows a right facing bust of Lincoln. The legend reads IN GOD WE TRUST above. The inscription is LIBERTY, with 1909 below. The bust is based on the Anthony Berger 1864 Lincoln photo in Mathew Brady's studio, and also possibly Brady's portrait of Lincoln with his son Tad (see photos).



Photo of Lincoln by Anthony Berger of Mathew Brady's Studio 1864



Mathew Brady portrait of Lincoln reading to his son Tad.

The reverse shows two stylized ears of durum wheat. The legend reads E PLURIBUS UNUM above. The inscription reads ONE | CENT | UNITED STATES | OF AMERICA between the two ears of wheat. The initials V.D.B. (for the sculptor Victor David Brenner) are at 6 o'clock on the rim between the bases of the two ears of wheat.

Introducing the coin.

In 1904, Teddy Roosevelt (TR) asked the Treasury Secretary Leslie Shaw if he could hire a private artist because he felt US coinage was inartistic. He was told that Congressional approval was only necessary if the design was changed before 25 years in production. The law remains the same today. After 25 years, the only requirement is permission from the Secretary of the Treasury. TR, who admired neoclassicism, then directed the Mint to hire Saint-Gaudens to design a cent, Double Eagle, Eagle, Half Eagle and Quarter Eagle.

Augustus Saint-Gaudens was a US sculptor of the Beaux-Arts generation. The Ecole de Beaux-Arts in Paris was in its prime from 1830 to 1900 promoting neoclassicism and incorporating Gothic and Renaissance elements. Many famous American architects and sculptors trained there. Saint-Gaudens redesigned the Eagle and Double Eagle, whose minting started in 1907. His Double Eagle is

often considered the most beautiful of all US coins. Sadly however, Saint-Gaudens had terminal colo-rectal cancer at the time and died in 1907.

After Saint Gaudens died, Bela (pronounced Beela) Lyon Pratt, Saint-Gaudens' student, designed the half and quarter Eagles, whose mintage started in 1908. TR knew that 1909 marked the centennial of Lincoln's birth and many citizens were suggesting a Lincoln cent, but no circulating coin had before featured an actual person. And none of the new gold coin designs were commemorative.

Some suggested a Lincoln half dollar, but that would have needed Congressional approval before 1917 (the Barber half dollar started production in 1892) and did not want to have to go through Congress.



Panama Canal medal Teddy Roosevelt sat for while discussing coins with VDB.

TR had previously sat for the Panama Canal medal by sculptor Victor David Brenner (above). They talked. TR had admired Brenner's 1907 desk plaque of Lincoln (see opposite), manufactured by the Gorham Manufacturing Co. using an electrotyping process. It was thus no surprise when in 1907 Mint Director, Frank A. Leach, asked Brenner to design the cent.

Brenner was born in 1890 as Viktoras Baranauskas in Lithuania. Persecuted as a Jew, he emigrated to US where he changed his name to Victor David Brenner. Unlike Saint-Gaudens and Bela Lyon Pratt, Brenner was both a numismatist and a die cutter. He was also a member of the American Numismatic Association, and of the American Numismatic Society.

Initially TR, as an interested party, checked in on the designs for the Lincoln cent, but on 4th March, 1909 TR was succeeded by William Howard Taft who had no interest in coinage. Charles E. Barber, Chief Mint Engraver and an inferior artist, held somewhat of a sinecure position, and relished the opportunity to delay. Brenner complained the Mint was losing hub detail on Saint-Gaudens' coins using the Mint's reducing lathe. Barber was heavily criticized about this, so he did not object when an outside art firm was suggested. The Mint used the Medallic Art Company in New York city to reduce Brenner's models to a master die and the Mint sent the master die to Brennan to touch up.



Desk Plaque by Victor David Brenner of Lincoln 1907, which TR admired.

Mint Director Frank Leach and Chief Engraver Barber also fiddled with Brenner's dies and changed the size of the head, pushing it down on the coin for IN GOD WE TRUST above, and Taft approved this. Actually Brenner's initial reverse designs were an imitation of the French 2-franc reverse using a sprig (see below). Plagiarizing did not seem to be taken so seriously in those days. Nevertheless, he was told to design a new reverse. So instead he designed modernistic durum wheat stalks.



Note sprig on reverse, Brennan imitated this for the Lincoln cent reverse.

The Mint had kept the designs secret so the public was very inquisitive and there was a craze going on about Lincoln's birth's centennial. The Philadelphia Mint sent the dies to the San Francisco Mint so that they could both jointly release the newly minted cents on August 2nd, 1909.

Lines outside the mints were enormous. Each person was only allowed two of the new cents! Initially the new coins passed at 25¢ each, falling later to 5¢. Initially the coin was intended as a commemorative for one year only but proved so popular that it has continued to this day.

But problems were afoot! The *Washington Star* newspaper questioned the Treasury about why Brenner's initials VDB were so large on the reverse. Some felt the letters might even stand for some secret society. The brouhaha reached Treasury Secretary, Franklin McVeigh, who ordered all Lincoln cent minting stopped on August 5th, pending a replacement of V.D.B. with a simple "B". The sidelined Charles, E. Barber, Chief Mint Engraver who had the same initial, said

he was "not willing to be held personally responsible for the Lincoln penny which he has always opposed and does not regard as a successful coin!"

By August 12th cents without VDB were being struck. In 1918 VDB was reintroduced on the truncation on the obverse. The same obverse is still being struck today 110 years later – the longest running coin design in US history, but not the longest in world history. The Venetian gold ducat, which was introduced around 1280 CE, was produced with the same design until the 1790s.

The San Francisco 1909 VDB cent is much rarer than the Philadelphia VDB cent, and is quite valuable today. Interestingly, in 1793 when the first US cent was struck, Americans still called it a "penny" out of habit. They were used to spending coppers, many from England, which were in fact half pence, but passed as pennies in the colonies. Over 200 years later many Americans still call it a penny.

After 50 years the reverse of the Lincoln cent was changed to the "Memorial reverse". After 100 years the reverse was changed to four different designs and the next year to an ugly shield design which has been used ever since.

An interesting postscript about Lincoln: In 1862 Lincoln said in a letter to Horace Greeley, the famous New York Tribune abolitionist Editor, "My paramount object in this struggle *is* to save the Union, and is *not* either to save or to destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing *any* slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing *all* the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that. What I do about slavery, and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union". But by late 1864 Lincoln's beliefs had evolved to total support of emancipation, and in early 1865 he moved mountains to get the 13th Amendment passed, which ended slavery.

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1921 HIGH RELIEF PEACE DOLLAR NGC MS 64

1946

Other quasi-commemoratives. CC Alt 4

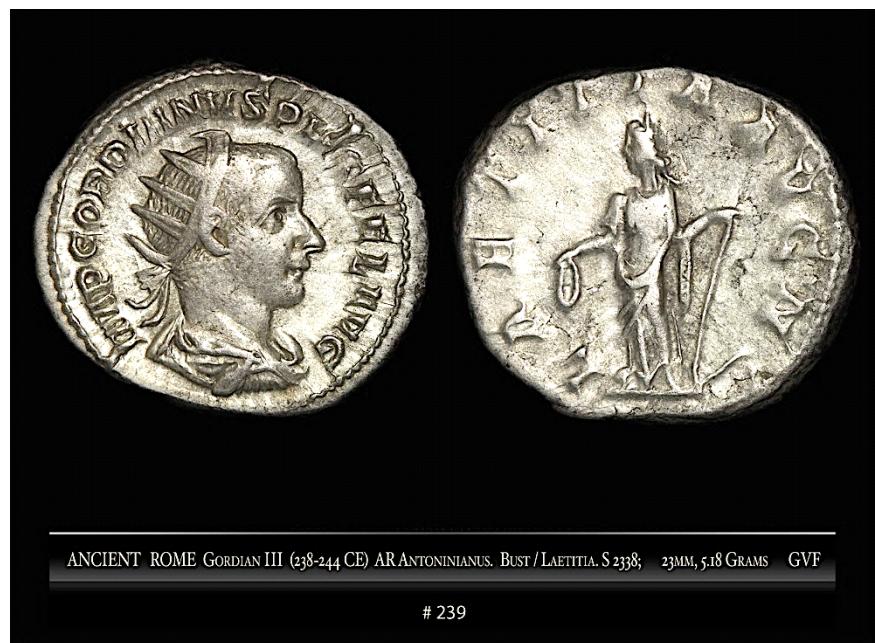
1921 Peace Dollar.

Background.

After the horrors of the First World War, a design competition was held in the US to commemorate peace with a coin. The Pittman Act of 1918 mandated that the US Mint strike 270 million silver dollars starting in 1921, stimulating numismatists to push for a new design, instead of the tired old Morgan dollars. Anthony de Francisci won the competition creating the Peace Dollar, which was to become the last circulating silver dollar. The Peace Dollar was the last coin of the renaissance of US coinage, which lasted from 1909 to 1921, a period when new artistic designs emerged.

The coin.

The obverse shows radiant liberty, modeled after de Francisci's wife, Teresa. This radiate crown is similar to Roman radiate heads but intended to recall the Statue of Liberty. The radiate crown symbolized the sun's powers, and was worn by Roman Emperors associating with Sol Invictus, a cult worshipping a sun god that was a patron of soldiers. English Prince Harry created the Invictus Games for injured or sick servicemen, Invictus meaning unconquered. The legend reads LIBERTY above, with the date 1921 below, and the inscription in the fields •IN•GOD•WE TRVST• Anthony de Francisci's monogram AF is below the truncation.



238-244 CE Roman coin showing a radiate crown.

The reverse shows an eagle perched on a rocky crag on a mountaintop, symbolizing strength and watching out for those who might destroy peace. The eagle looks east to Europe where there was now peace. The sun's rays are behind. An olive branch for peace extends from the eagle's talons. This was the first time since 1798 that the bald eagle was depicted without holding any arrows (emblematic of war), another symbolic representation of peace after the First World War. The legend reads UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, with E PLURIBUS UNUM above and PEACE below on the rock. In the lower field is ONE DOLLAR.

Introducing the coin.

Some of this has been dealt with before under the McKinley Memorial gold dollar (pages 281 to 285). In 1878 the Bland Allison Act required the US Treasury to buy \$2 million a month of silver from Western mining interests. In 1890 the Sherman Silver Purchase Act required the Treasury to buy almost double that. This was pushed by a political group called the free-silverites consisting of western silver mining interests and farmers who were going broke paying for agricultural machinery loans in a deflationary economy with falling grain prices. The free-silverites felt that if only coining more silver could expand the money supply, doing this would reverse deflation and fix things.

However, the silver miners also played the system by exchanging silver for gold and making even more money. They would present their silver dollars to the US government and ask for gold in exchange, which in turn could buy even more silver. The Morgan dollar at times contained only 70 cents worth of silver. The US government nearly ran out of gold and in 1893 the Sherman Act was repealed. In 1900 the US went on a gold standard, but was still obligated to mint silver dollars with the silver it had purchased. This obligation lasted until 1904. But the US was no longer on a bimetallic standard.

During the First World War, Germany tried to destabilize British rule in India by spreading rumors that English money in India had insufficient silver backing. England then asked the US if it could buy silver from them. The Pittman Act of 1918 allowed the US to sell up to 350 million ounces of silver at \$1 per ounce to England. The US needed to melt 270 million Morgan dollars (about half the supply of Morgan dollars) to accomplish this on top of their bullion reserves. The Act stipulated that the Treasury then had to buy the same weight of silver from US silver mines and re-mint the silver dollars at a later date.

The first person to suggest a Peace Dollar was Frank Duffield, the editor of a periodical called "The Numismatist". In November 1918 Frank Duffield suggested a victory coin to be issued in such quantities as to be forever commonplace. Farran Zerbe, the "unconscionable huckster" (see next page), also gave a talk at the 1920 ANA convention suggesting the same thing, suggesting it be called a peace coin, and suggesting the coin be a silver dollar. Zerbe was famous for appropriating the ideas of others as his own. Nonetheless, this turned out to be the first time in numismatic history that a numismatist actually had enough political influence to initiate anything.

SOUVENIR AND COMMEMORATIVE COINS.

(A paper prepared by F. G. Duffield, Baltimore, Md., to be read before the Convention of the American Numismatic Association, Philadelphia, October 5-9, 1918).

The people of Illinois will be pardoned if they feel a little "chesty" over their Illinois Centennial Half Dollar. Besides being a very handsome piece of money, it is the first of its class to be issued by the Government. None of our previous souvenir coins has been for the purpose of commemorating an occasion, event or undertaking that was confined entirely by the bounda-

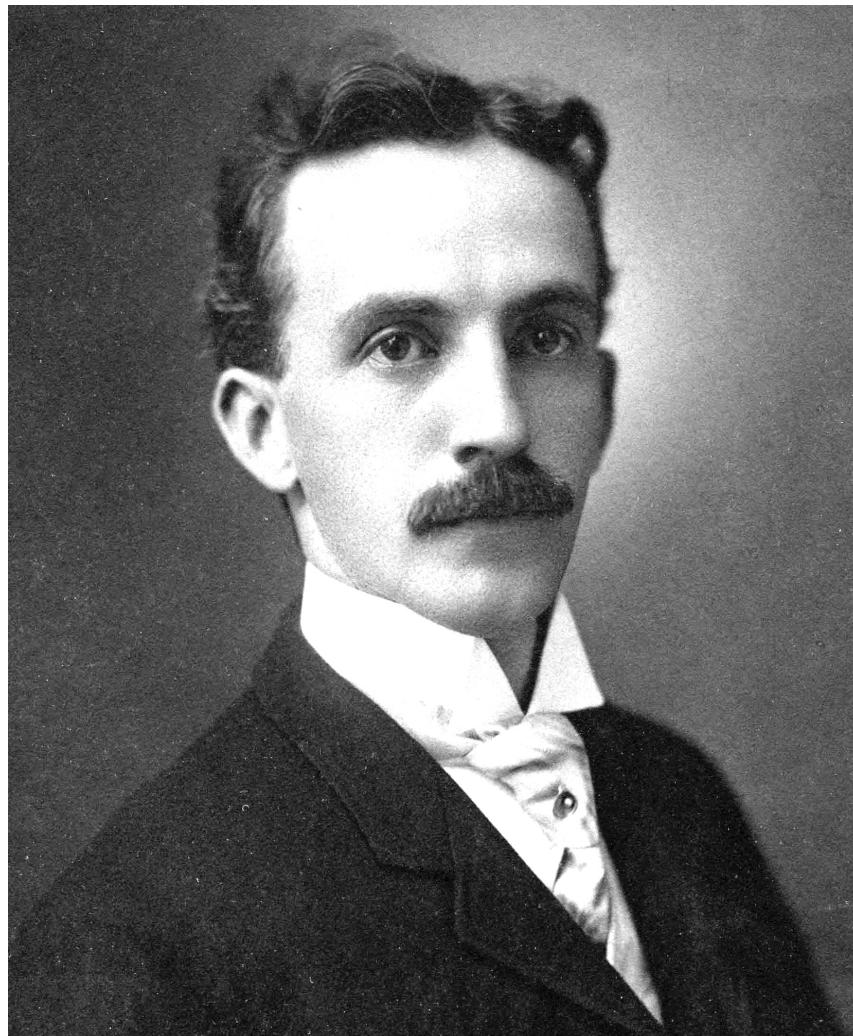
An event of international interest, and one worthy to be commemorated by a United States coin issue, is scheduled to take place in the near future. The date has not yet been determined, but it will be when the twentieth-century vandals of Europe have been beaten to their knees and been compelled to accept the peace terms of the Allies. That occasion will be a most fitting one for the issue of a commemorative coin. It should be issued in such quantities that it will never become rare, and it should circulate at face value. The coinage of the usual type might well be suspended for a year to permit of such a quantity being issued. Let such a Victory coin be issued. Let the obverse be symbolic of the purpose for which the United States entered the war, and let the reverse be emblematic of the crimes against humanity perpetrated by the enemy. Then, for years to come, as the coins shall pass from hand to hand in the channels of trade, we shall have a daily and constant reminder of what Belgium and France and Serbia have suffered, and the price in human blood and treasure the Allies have been compelled to pay to bring to an end the wild orgy of greed-crazed and inhuman Germany; and as we handle such a coin in our daily life it would also stimulate us in a resolve to socially and commercially ostracise a nation that by its acts has forfeited all right for years to come to expect to participate with civilized nations in the markets of the world.

Extract of November 1918 Numismatist article by Duffield.

Numismatist Congressman William A. Ashbrook (D-Oh. See opposite) chaired the Committee on Coinage and Weights, and took up Zerbe's suggestion. A committee was formed to push for a Peace dollar. Ashbrook was also famous for giving the American Numismatic Association a Congressional Charter for education in 1912, a highly unusual move for a hobby organization.

Ashbrook handed over to Albert Vestal (R-In.) in 1921, who met with Treasury Secretary Andrew Mellon and Mint Director Raymond Baker. They were all supportive of a Peace dollar.

On May 9th, 1921, the Mint started to strike new Morgan dollars (last struck in 1904) to fulfill the Pittman Act. That very same day Vestal introduced a bill for the Peace dollar. The Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) chairman Charles Moore, and sculptor member, James Earle Fraser, also met with the Mint Director Baker in May and decided on a design competition for the coin. The winner would get \$1,500, and all other competitors would get \$100 each.



Farran Zerbe, the "unconscionable huckster".

But in November it dawned on the Peace dollar proponents that as the Morgan dollar was over 25 years in production, Congress was not needed to vote on a coin. All they needed to do was to ask the Treasury Secretary.

In December the 34-year-old Anthony de Francisci (see page 298) won the competition. The only other coin he had sculpted was the 1920 Maine Centennial, whose design was pretty much dictated to him. He said of it: "I do not consider it very favorably".

De Francisci used his Italian wife Teresa de Francisci as a model. He made two reverses, one with a war-like eagle breaking a sword, and the other with a resting eagle with an olive branch. The obverse looked like the actual coin except for Roman not Arabic numerals (see opposite).



Teresa de Francisci, Anthony's wife, the model for the Peace dollar.



Rep. William Ashbrook, who gave the ANA its Congressional Charter and promoted the Peace Dollar.

Mint Director Baker asked for the broken sword from the warlike reverse to be put under the eagle on the mountaintop with an olive branch creating a hybrid between the broken sword and the olive branch alone (see below left).



Models: Left war like eagle breaking sword, right resting eagle on broken sword (the modification Mint Director Baker asked for).



Left obverse model with Roman numerals, right final reverse model.

Only descriptions, not pictures were publicized in the press as the Treasury said it was illegal to publish a photo of a US coin. *The New York Herald* on December 21st said “the broken sword carries with it only unpleasant associations. A sword is broken when its owner has disgraced himself. It is broken when a battle is lost and breaking it is the alternative to surrendering. A sword is broken when a man who wears it can no longer render allegiance to his sovereign”. Veterans joined in complaining about the broken sword imagery.

It is said that a letter writing campaign followed. I have difficulty believing this. After all, the December 21st *New York Herald* entry turned out to be only 7 days before the coin was actually struck! It is possible though that the *New York Herald* article was at the tail end of the letter writing campaign. This was not just a tempest in a teapot – four million US soldiers had fought, and 116,708 had died fighting in the First World War.



Mint Director Baker & Anthony de Francisci examining a model of Peace Dollar.

The CFA chairman Charles Moore, and sculptor member, James Fraser, recommended removing the broken sword. The Treasury Secretary and Mint Director were not available so their deputies decided on their own to authorize removal of the broken sword. They were desperate to get the coin minted in 1921. Time was of the essence. The new Chief Mint Engraver, George Morgan, expertly removed the broken sword from the master die using gravers

and magnification as de Francisci looked on. He substituted more of an olive branch (compare the two reverses on the last page).

Other accounts say that the model was reworked. But, given time limitations, that seems exceedingly unlikely, as they would then have had to use the Janvier reducing lathe to reduce the master die, with which they had no experience. The lathe had sat pretty idle since the Philadelphia Mint bought it in 1905 - the trouble was nobody knew how to use it!

On December 28th, desperate to mint the Peace Dollar in 1921 the dies were finally ready. The Philadelphia Mint over four days supposedly made one million coins. It is possible they cheated and minted some in 1922, but they have never acknowledged that. Producing 250,000 dollars a day with repeatedly breaking dies seems an unlikely proposition. That is over 10,000 coins an hour! An estimated twenty-four satin proofs and five matte proofs were made also. Anthony De Francisci had bet people he would lose the design competition, so he paid George Morgan with 50 of the new peace dollars to pay off all his bets! Reputedly he did not keep any for himself!

Ostensibly, because of the coin's high relief the Mint found excessive pressure was needed to strike the coins, making the dies fail early, so in 1922 the coin's relief was lowered using the Mint's own Janvier reducing lathe. However, some have commented that they never saw a die break (manifest by a crack line) on any of the 1921 coins, suggesting that there may have been other reasons why the mint lowered the relief. Possibilities include poor stacking (which was untrue), and the sidelined Morgan exercising his authority.

In 1922, 84 million peace dollars were struck in all three mints. And when all the required coins of the 1918 Pittman Act were struck, production stopped – that was in 1928. By then, 190 million peace dollars and 80 million 1921 Morgan dollars had been struck replacing the 270 million melted Morgan dollars in 1918 under the Pittman Act. Actually production resumed briefly in 1934-5 because of a new Act under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt requiring the Mint to buy silver again because the price of silver was at an historic low, though they only struck 7 million dollars.

The era of silver dollars had come to an end. Most Americans preferred paper money to the heavy coins in the pocket, except for the thinly populated South and West. Elsewhere the silver dollars simply accumulated in canvas bags in banks and the US Treasury Department. As an aside, each December there was a brief outflow of silver dollars for gifts for Christmas, until January, when they were mostly re-deposited in the banks.

In 1942, the Wartime Act led to the melting of Peace dollars for the war effort. And in the 1980s when silver reached \$50 an ounce, even more were melted.

An interesting after-note: in 1964 Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mt.) representing sectional interests (Nevada casinos and the West) pushed successfully for an Act to mint silver dollars again, despite the fact that they were worth a dollar as bullion. The Act specified 45 million coins!

Despite the obvious ridiculousness of the Act, Mansfield insisted the dollars be struck. On May 12th, 1965 (with special Congressional authorization to strike the coin one year after its date) 316,076 coins were struck. Coin dealers offered them at \$7.50 per coin. The public and much of Congress raised a storm of objections.

Mint Director Eva Adams then announced that the pieces were trial strikes, not intended for circulation. The Treasury Department then instructed the Mints to re-melt all the coins. Stories circulate about seven 1964 Peace Dollars that escaped. But such a piece would likely have been seized by the Secret Service. Daniel Carr has made exceedingly deceptive and rather beautiful copies (see below).



Daniel Carr replica of 1964 Peace Dollar, struck on actual Peace Dollars.

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WASHINGTON QUARTER DOLLAR FIRST YEAR OF ISSUE 1932

2445

Other quasi-commemoratives. CC Alt 5 1932 Washington Quarter.

Introduction.

After a boring succession of stylized personifications of liberty from 1793 came the renaissance of US coinage. This began with the eagle (\$10 gold piece) and double eagle (\$20 gold piece) in 1907, and ended with the Peace Dollar in 1921. Abraham Lincoln was the first revered person to be placed on a circulating coin in 1909. George Washington had always refused to have his portrait on a coin fearing it might encourage successors to become monarchs. 1932 was the 200th anniversary of his birth and finally time for his portrait to appear on a circulating US coin.

The coin.

The obverse shows Washington's bewigged head facing left. Above is the legend LIBERTY and below is the date 1932. In the lower left field is IN GOD WE TRUST. The initials JF for John Flanagan are on the neck truncation, though cannot be seen in this photo.

The reverse shows a facing spread winged eagle with its head facing left, standing on a bundle of arrows, and two intersecting olive branches below. The legends are horribly crowded with UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and E PLURIBUS UNUM above, and QUARTER DOLLAR below.

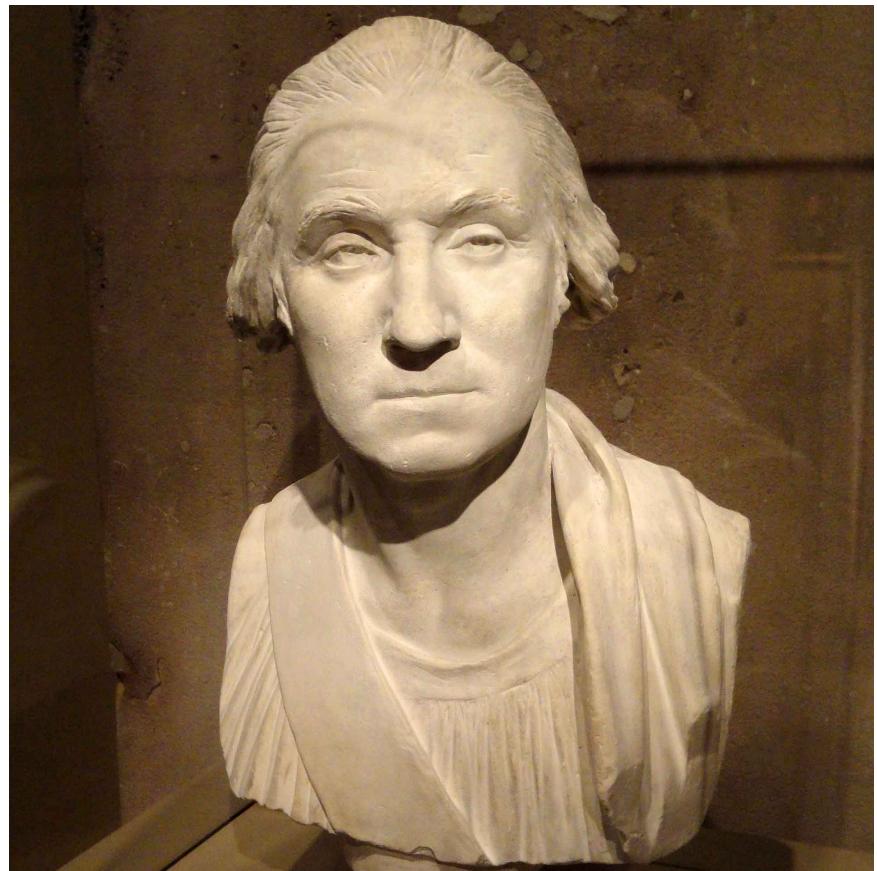
Introducing the coin.

In 1924, Congress created the United States George Washington Bicentennial Commission eight years before the bicentennial event. Presidents Calvin Coolidge Jr. and Herbert Hoover, and Henry Ford were all on the commission.

When Hoover took over as President he disliked the commemorative program worrying it would invite counterfeits. After a hiatus the Washington Committee re-formed in 1930 and voted for the entire Commemorative half dollar coinage in 1932 be a Washington half dollar. In 1930 the US was in the middle of a depression. Peace Dollars had last been struck in 1928 and half dollars had last been struck in 1929.

The Walking Liberty half dollar started in 1916 so could not be replaced until 25 years later (1942) without Congressional approval. Despite no Congressional approval the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) organized a design contest. The obverse had to be Washington's image from the Jean-Antoine Houdon 1785 sculpture. Laura Gardner Fraser won unanimously. A medal and a commemorative half dollar were to be struck from the models.

But on Feb 9th, 1931, Representative Randolph Perkins from New Jersey proposed a bill, which became law March 4th, 1931. But to the Committee's horror it was for a quarter dollar not a half dollar. This included abandoning the Standing Liberty quarter dollar early, which they labeled "unsatisfactory" and to be replaced by the Washington quarter. CFA chair, Charles Moore, objected saying the Washington Half Dollar was already planned and designed. Congress ignored him.



Jean-Antoine Houdon's bust of Washington in Plaster of Paris 1785.

Mint Director Mary O'Reilly was directed to organize another design competition. She asked the CFA chair Moore, who intimated "been there, done that". But Treasury Secretary Andrew Mellon also fancied himself as an art connoisseur. He ignored Moore and said they would promote another competition. When the CFA judged this next competition of course they again chose Laura Fraser.

But the Treasury Secretary had to approve the design, which he refused to do, instead selecting John Flanagan's design. When Ogden Mills replaced Andrew Mellon as Secretary of the Treasury on February 22nd 1932, the CFA renewed its protest of Flanagan's artistically inferior design. But Mills refused to contradict his predecessor.

The reader will clearly see the superiority of Laura Fraser's design. Walter Breen (see references) said Mellon's decision was because he was biased against women. Q. David Bowers (see references) said this was untrue pointing out that Mellon had previously approved commemorative coins by women. To commemorate the bicentennial of George Washington's death in 1999, Laura Fraser's design was used on a commemorative half eagle.



Laura Fraser's 1932 half dollar design, resurrected 1999 for the half eagle.



Flanagan's bust of Saint-Gaudens for the Hall of Fame in New York University.

John Flanagan (1865 – 1952) was studio assistant to Saint-Gaudens from 1885 to 1890. Flanagan did the bust of Saint-Gaudens for the US Hall of Fame in New York University (see above). Flanagan is famous for the Rotunda Clock in 1896 at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. (see opposite).



John Flanagan sculptor of the present day ugly Washington Quarter.



Flanagan's masterful Rotunda Clock 1896 at Library of Congress.

In 1785, Washington sat for Houdin over a seven-day period and also had a life mask done (using two quills into his nostril to breathe). A statue was completed for the Virginia General Assembly and still stands in marble in the Virginia State Capitol. A clay bust was left at Mount Vernon and is the basis of numerous medals. An undraped version in the Boston Athenaeum from Jefferson's collection was a particularly favored as a bust. As with Laura Fraser, John Flanagan was required to use Houdin's bust for Washington.



Houdin sculpture of Washington at Virginia State Capitol.

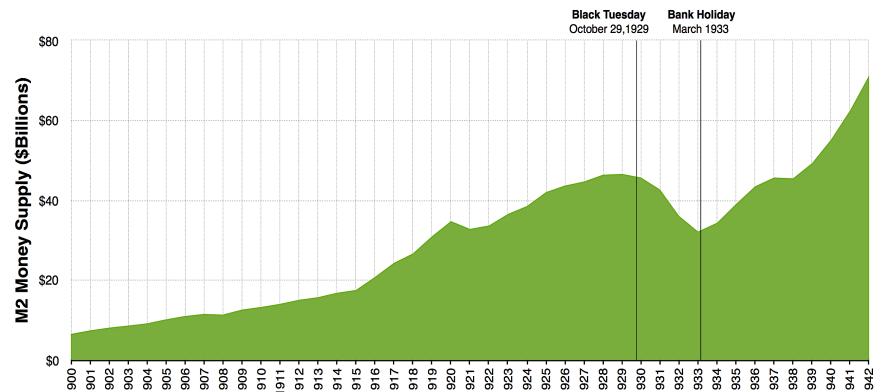
Cornelius Vermeule (see references) says “there is something cold and lifeless about the results (of Flanagan’s quarter)”. “Flanagan’s bird is a stiff bit of heraldry amid too large a wreath and too much or too large lettering”

In July 1932 the new quarter was announced and in August the Mint released them into circulation. At the time the Mint informed the public this was not a one-year commemorative coin, and would continue.

Only 6.2 million Washington quarters were minted in 1932 and none in 1933. The standard excuse for this seems to be that there was an “oversupply” in 1933. However, 7 to 15 million quarters a year had been minted in the 1920s. In 1931 none were minted, in 1932 6.2 million were minted, none in 1933, then 32 million in 1934. How come there was an “oversupply” if 7 – 15 million coins a year were being minted, and the year after a lapse they needed 32 million?

Looking at the numbers this excuse looks wrong. It is true the Mint did not strike other coins some years during the depression. On the other hand, the darkest part of the Great Depression was 1930 – 1933 with peak unemployment of 22% in 1933. Also many banks had closed and the money supply contracted (see below). No dollars, quarters, dimes or nickels were minted in 1933, but pennies and half dollars were minted.

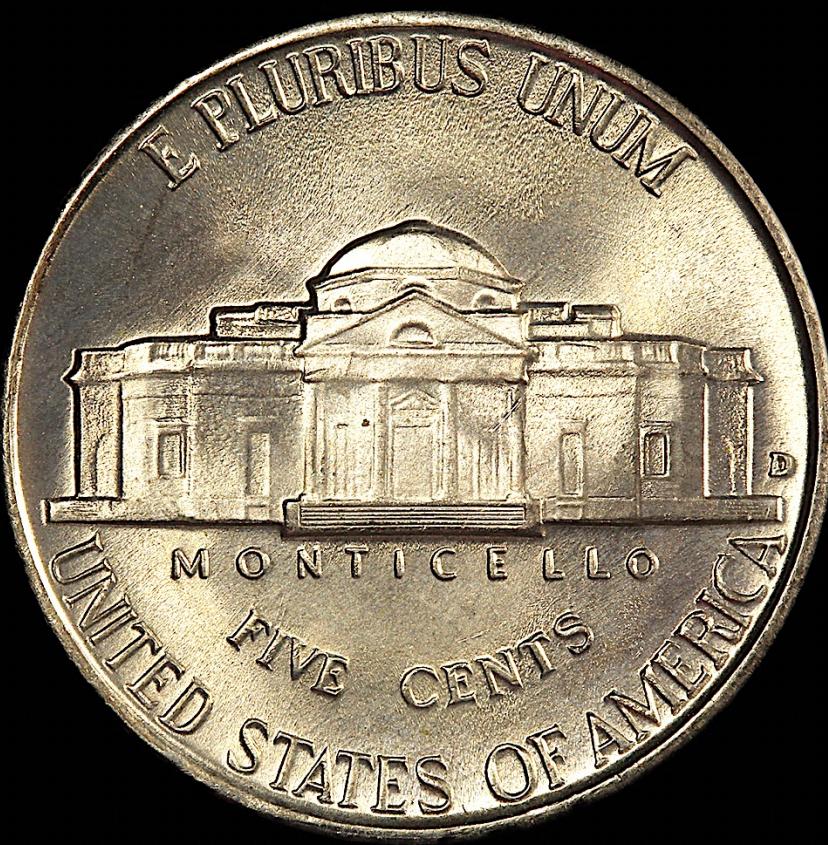
Money Supply During The Great Depression Era



Overall I have to say the Flanagan design is feeble, the striking of the coin is weak and mushy, the relief is too low, and the artistry is poor. The coins continued to be struck until 1998 after which the State Quarters program. Fortunately, the Mint took the opportunity to strengthen Washington’s portrait to a decent relief, though it is still not what I would call artistic.

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VARIETY I JEFFERSON PRE-WAR NICKEL 1940. SIX STEP.

21.2MM, 5.0 GRAMS

MS66

6

Other quasi-commemoratives. CC Alt 6

1938 Jefferson Nickel.

Introduction.

The renaissance of US coinage included James Earle Fraser's Buffalo Nickel in 1913. Today the buffalo nickel is highly regarded. But at the time it was not. After 25 years of Buffalo Nickel production, a new nickel did not need Congressional approval, just the Treasury Secretary's approval. So the Mint changed the design to commemorate Thomas Jefferson.

The coin.

The obverse shows a bust of Jefferson facing left. The legend reads IN GOD WE TRUST, LIBERTY ★ 1940.

The reverse shows a face-on view of Monticello with the word MONTICELLO below. The legends are E PLURIBUS UNUM, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and FIVE CENTS. Later in 1966 FS would be added below the truncation for the designer Felix Schlag.

Introducing the coin.

In January 1938 Mint Director Nellie Ross conducted a competition specifying a bust of Jefferson on the obverse and Monticello (the house Jefferson designed for himself) on the reverse. On April 20th, 1938, the judges (Ross and three other sculptors) viewed 390 entries. Felix Schlag won the \$1,000 prize.



Re-creation of Schlag's original design by the Full Step Nickel Club in 2002.
Note oblique Monticello, tree on left and modernistic lettering.

Felix Schlag (1891-1974) was born in Frankfurt, Germany. After nine years of primary school he joined his father as a sculptor aged 14. He later went to the Royal Academy of Art in Munich in 1912. A year later he served in the German army during the First World War where he was hospitalized for shrapnel

injuries. He later did another six years training in sculpture and architecture at the Academy.

He had a child with his girlfriend Anna Strunk in 1920 and they married later that year. Felix won many prizes in Germany for sculptures. In 1923 his father-in-law immigrated to the US. Six years later Felix immigrated with his family to the US and lived in Meriden, Connecticut, working as a sculptor at a silver company. His wife Anna then left with their child to return to Germany for unknown reasons, never to return despite the fact that her father lived in the US. One never knows - immigrating and learning a new language as an adult is not always easy



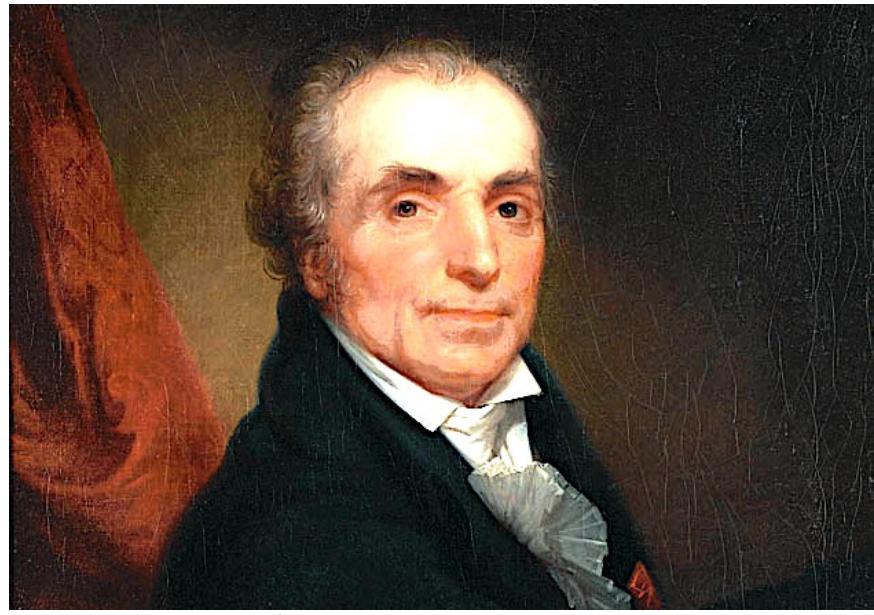
Felix's photo from his declaration of intention for US Citizenship in early 1930s

Felix then moved to Illinois where his father-in-law lived and in 1935, living in Chicago, described himself as divorced. Schlag later married a lady named Ethel Levin. It is said he spent his prize money from the nickel competition paying for his wife's funeral – this must have been Anna, because he lived with Ethel until he died.

At the age of 50 Schlag was living in Michigan. Art was doing badly so he switched to photography and was successful until he retired in 1960 aged 69. In

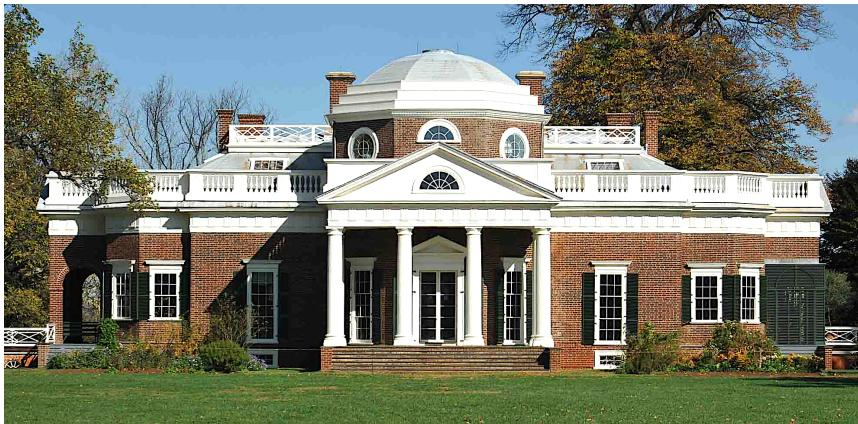
August 1964, the American Numismatic Association organized a meeting to have Schlag give an account of his life. He said he would constantly move around to try to get work as a sculptor. He continued doing sculptures when he could get a commission. In 1969 he returned to Frankfurt with Ethel, his wife for a visit. He died in 1974 and his wife, Ethel, died in 1994 aged 87. The life of even a talented artist can be exceedingly hard.

Schlag modeled Jefferson's bust after Jean-Antoine Houdon's 1789 marble bust in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and created an oblique view of Monticello with a modernistic tree to the left. He did not sign his work. In May 1938, Ross asked Schlag to change Monticello to a face-on view, omit the tree and change the modernistic lettering. In June Schlag resubmitted his reverse model and in July the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) reviewed and approved the models, as did Treasury Secretary, Henry Morgenthau. Also just in case people thought the building was their local library, the Mint added the word MONTICELLO below!



Jean Antoine Houdon, famous French sculptor, painted by Rembrandt Peale.

All three mints struck 29 million nickels in 1938. In 1939 they struck 130 million. They were so popular they were hoarded and not commonly seen in circulation until 1940. In 1939, the Mint re-cut the hub to sharpen the steps to Monticello. Today, collectors talk about the number of steps visible to measure how well struck up the coin was. There was once even a "Full Step Nickel Club", but it is no longer on the internet. The Professional Coin Grading Service uses FS (Full Steps) for nickels with 5 or 6 steps. Another coin grading service Numismatic Guarantee Corporation initially reserved FS for 6 steps, then in 2004 changed to 5FS or 6FS for the number of steps visible. Some years nickels have never been struck well enough to show the 5 or 6 steps.



Modern view face-on of Monticello.



Houdon's 1789 marble bust of Jefferson in Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

During the Second World War nickel became an important war metal. They used it to alloy with steel to increase its strength and resist high temperatures. It was used in piston heads, turbines and steel armor plating. Between 1942 and 1945 Congress switched the five-cent nickel composition from 75% copper and 25% nickel, to 56% copper, 35% silver and 9% manganese for all mints. The Philadelphia Mint usually has no mintmark on its coins, but for the four years of "wartime nickels" the nickels had a prominent P above Monticello's dome.

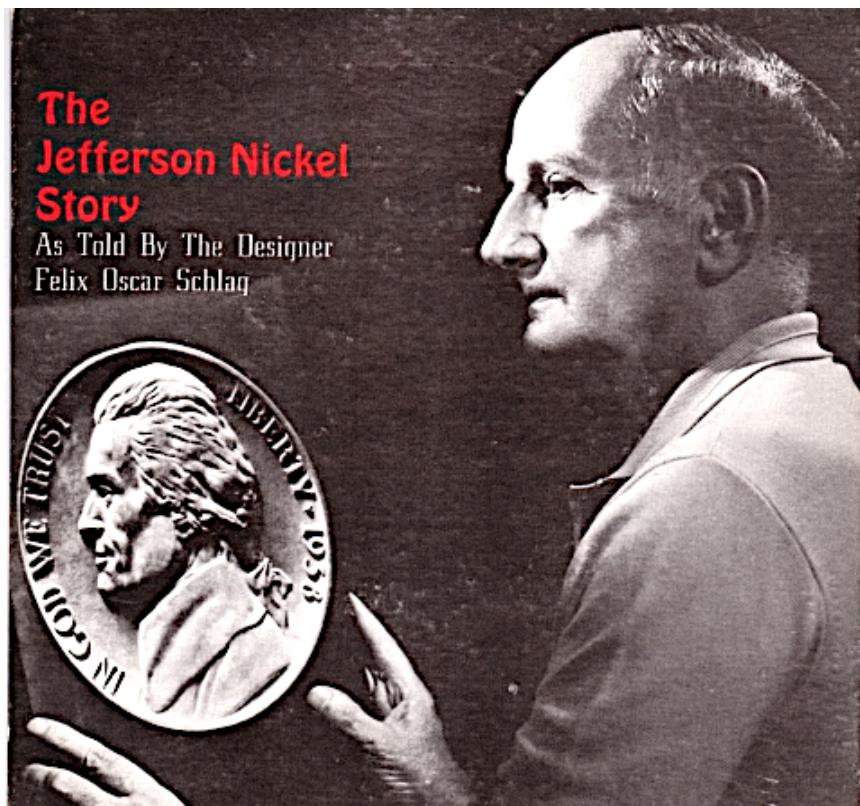


Photo of Felix Schlag with his model of Jefferson – the obverse of the nickel.



In 1980 this was sold to me as a 6 step nickel. They counted the top as a step!



Inspecting nickel designs, left Edward Bruce, and right Nellie Ross,
Director of the Mint in April 1938.

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ROOSEVELT DIME FIRST YEAR OF ISSUE 1946

2446

Other quasi-commemoratives. CC Alt 7

1946 Roosevelt Dime.

Introduction.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) died on 12th April, 1945. He died of an intracerebral hemorrhage from malignant hypertension, one month after assuming the US Presidency for an unprecedented fourth term. FDR had a polio-like illness in 1921, which left his legs paralyzed. His death was widely mourned. Starting in 1938 screen comedian Eddie Cantor started the “March of Dimes”, a wordplay on the expression “March of Time”, to raise money for polio victims. The fight to end polio and Roosevelt’s passing were combined to create the 1946 Roosevelt dime.

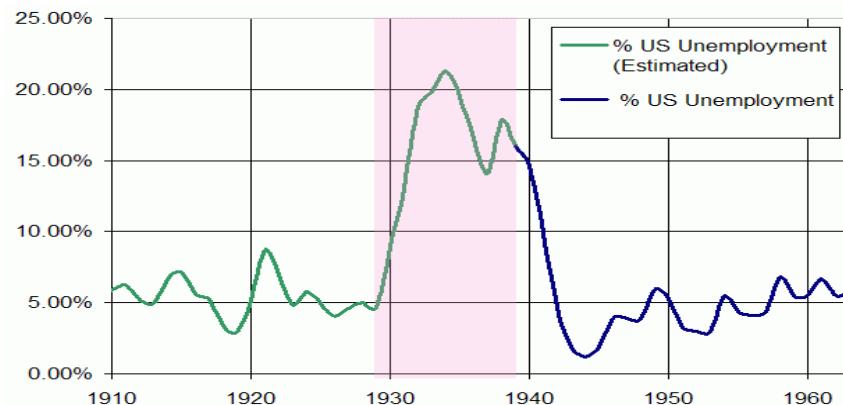
The coin.

The obverse shows the head of FDR facing left. JS (for the sculptor John Sinnock) is below FDR’s head. The inscription IN GOD WE TRUST is below the truncation and date is in the lower right field. The legend is LIBERTY.

The reverse shows a torch, representing liberty, flanked by an olive sprig on the left for peace, and an oak sprig on the right for strength, clearly alluding to America’s strength after the end of the Second World War. As it happened, this was also an unfortunate but probably unthought-of allusion to FDR’s paralysis - a problem that we would only think of in these politically correct times. The inscription reads E PLURIBUS UNUM. The legend reads UNITED STATES OF AMERICA •ONE DIME•.

Introducing the coin.

Three weeks after FDR died, on 3rd May, 1945, Louisiana Representative James Morrison introduced a bill for a Roosevelt dime. This is something the reader will realize by now was unnecessary as the preceding “Mercury” dime was already 30 years old. All they would have needed to do was to get approval by the Treasury Secretary. It is possible that Morrison was simply poking Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau Jr. into action. Indeed, two weeks later Morgenthau announced the Roosevelt dime.

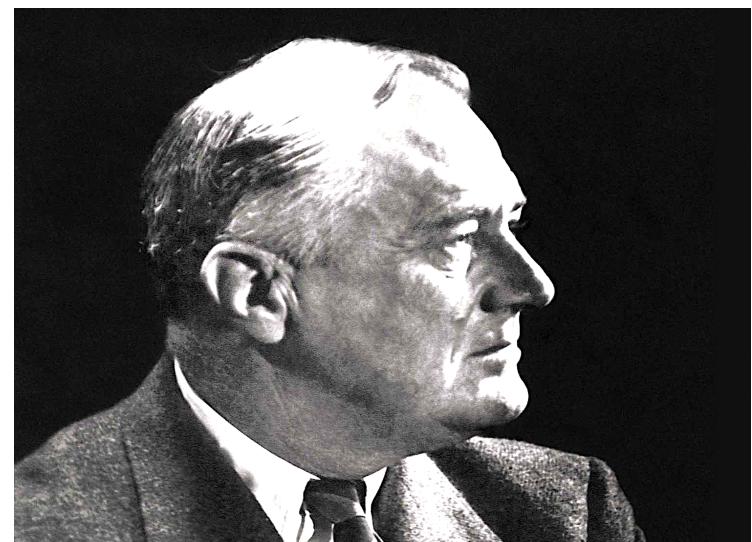


The preceding graph showing unemployment during the depression and underlines the History Channel’s website which points out (and I summarize here), “economists still debate the true merits of the New Deal and whether FDR’s spending programs ended the depression. The onset of the Second World War, which ultimately lowered unemployment and increased GDP through weapons production, really played a much bigger role”.

This time there was no immediate competition for the design. I am not sure why – so many coins were designed by competition during the commemorative era. Certainly it was President Theodore Roosevelt who initiated designs by non-mint artists instead of the tired old Mint designs during the renaissance of US coinage from 1909 to 1921. It may have been brought to a head by the dissatisfaction with Charles E. Barber’s inferior artistic talents as Chief Mint Engraver (1879 – 1917), as well as his brief successor George Morgan for eight years. But even when John Sinnock became Chief Mint Engraver in 1925, the tradition of outside competitions for commemorative and circulating coins continued. Perhaps Roosevelt’s policy caused a rethink about a new way of doing things.

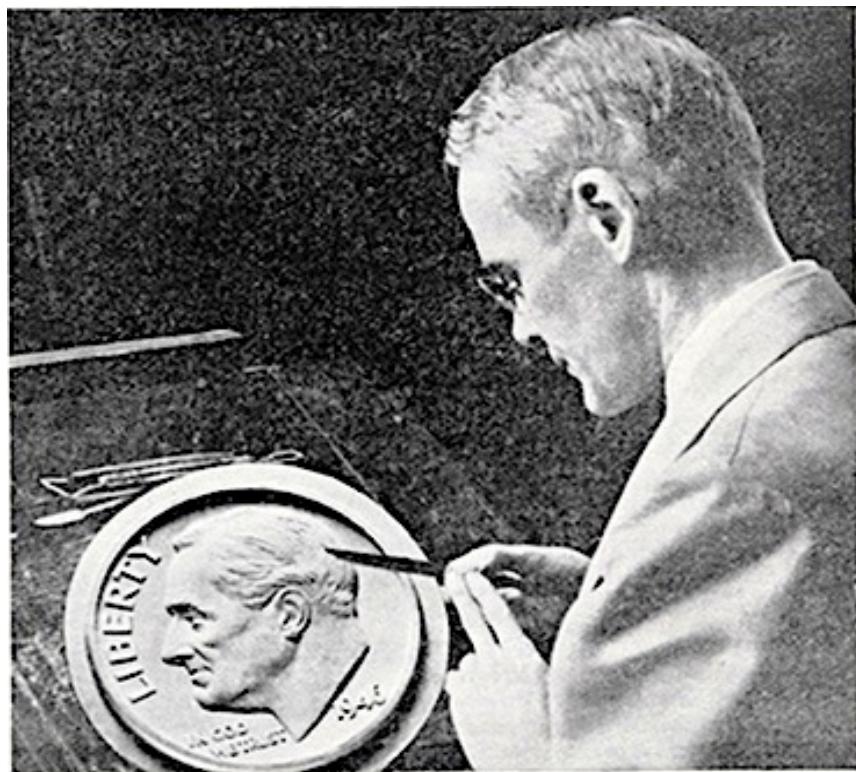
Another factor was that before 1918 a die engraver was needed to create a design by pushing metal around with gravers. By contrast, after 1918 the Mint used the New York City Medallic Art Company’s Janvier reducing lathe to make master dies i.e. the device translated the model into a die. So after 1918 any sculptor could create models without having to be a die engraver.

John Sinnock, with Assistant Engraver Gilroy Roberts’ assistance, made the models for the Roosevelt dime. The obverse had the image of FDR. Sinnock offered several reverse models. One had a hand holding the torch, another had scrolls inscribed with the four freedoms (after a speech by FDR in 1941 – freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom of fear). Others had liberty, the War Memorial Opera House, etc.



Marcel Sternberger’s photograph of FDR 1939, the most likely model for Sinnock.

On October 12th, 1945, the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) said Sinnock's portrait of FDR needed more "dignity". They were happy with the reverse. Sinnock met with Lee Lawrie, the sculptor member of the CFA. Sinnock then changed the model apparently elevating his dignity! The Mint Director, Nellie Ross, sent photos of the model to the CFA who again rejected it – still not dignified enough! They then suggested a competition for a sculpture.



Sinnock engraving FDR dime 1946. He was very thin and would die May 1947.

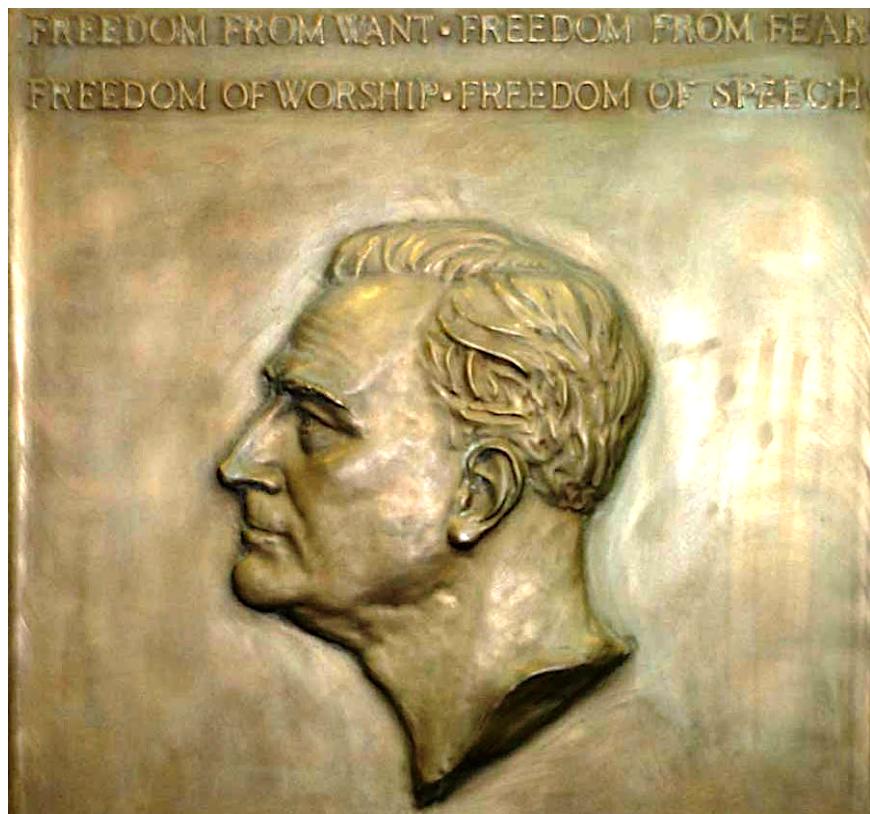
How undignified for the Chief Mint Engraver to be told his sculpture was insufficiently dignified; even more so that the public would now take over! But Mint Director Ross had to get the coin minted and only had two months to get ready for the March of Dimes campaign in January 1946.

In late December the new Treasury Secretary, Fred Vinson, disapproved of the design. Sinnock fiddled more (Don Taxay said FDR had never looked better!) Nellie Ross meanwhile must have been having kittens! Finally, on January 8th, 1946 the CFA and Vinson approved the models. But the March of Dimes campaign had already started. Actually, Ross had proceeded without CFA approval, figuring she had the authority and needed to get cracking!

Cornelius Vermeule (see references) liked the design, and to me it seems more like a real person than most previous statuesque sculptures of people. Some have accused Sinnock of plagiarism of Selma Burke's plaque of FDR (see

below). However, Sinnock had sketched FDR live and did FDR's first Presidential medal and did use the photo by Marcel Sternberger. His photo (see previous page) looks to me far more like the dime image than Burke's plaque.

Nevertheless, as the Numismatic Guarantee Corporation (a grading service) website states "the story that a white man working for the government stole from and uncredited (sic) an African-American female artist is an attractive anecdote for those looking to push their own agenda".



Selma Burke's plaque of FDR. Some claim Sinnock plagiarized this, but Sternberger's photo seems the more likely source (see previous page). Note four freedoms, listed above, that Sinnock modeled for one reverse.

Dies were prepared and finally coins struck on January 19th, 1946. They were released on January 30th, FDR's birthday, and the traditional day for celebrating the March of Dimes each year. John Sinnock had become the first Mint Engraver to make a circulating coin since Charles Barber in 1892.

Relations with the USSR at the time were deteriorating and some pointed to John Sinnock's signature on the coin, JS, and said it alluded to Joseph Stalin, the Soviet Dictator. These were just conspiracy theorists stirring up trouble. They still do!

FDR's "polio".

In 1921, at age 39 FDR was afflicted by a spreading paralysis diagnosed as polio, which left him paraplegic (paralyzed from the waist down). Today most authorities feel his illness was more compatible with Guillain-Barré Syndrome. But neither illness had any treatment that would have made any difference at the time anyway. I would not fault a physician for seeing a horse in a team of horses, rather than a zebra, especially if zebras at the time were considered to be horses! Read on!

Before the Second World War American physicians did not consider Guillain-Barré Syndrome to be a separate entity from polio. They considered it to be the same disease. FDR never had a lumbar puncture, which today would have differentiated between the two. But it would have had to be done within several days of the acute illness. By the time he saw more elevated specialists it would have been too late to do a lumbar puncture anyway. Some claim he did have the lumbar puncture but that seems very unlikely. In any case it would not have made any difference in his treatment or recovery.

In 1924, FDR went to Warm Springs, Georgia for hydrotherapy. In 1926 he bought the center to make it a rehabilitation center for polio. He wanted the American Orthopedic Association to endorse it, but they would not because they felt it usually did not change outcomes. However, it certainly felt good for those unfortunate people who were afflicted. Hydrotherapy is still used to build muscle strength today especially in cases of leg weakness.



FDR with friends in Warm Springs Georgia.

FDR changed his hobby from sailing to stamp collecting. His legs were completely paralyzed. He wore ten-pound steel braces, which locked at the knees to enable him to walk with crutches. Alternatively, he could use a cane to walk pivoting at the pelvis while holding onto another person. His legs only moved by gravity and pelvic movement.

He refused to give up thinking that exercise and hydrotherapy would restore his walking. Wow! What a positive thinker! He used a wheelchair in private but preferred to stand in public with crutches or a cane, and used an especially sturdy lectern to hang onto when he gave speeches. He fortunately had enormous upper body strength. The press on the whole cooperated by not showing him getting in and out of cars or trains. Today the press would not participate in such a cover up. But at the time secret servicemen would obstruct any photographer who tried photographing him in a wheelchair or struggling.



FDR at Warm Springs, Georgia in 1929



FDR with crutches in public in 1924

In those days' polio, a highly infectious virus, spread rapidly between many infants. Of 1,000 children infected 720 had no symptoms. 240 had a flu like illness only, called "abortive polio". 40 had neurological symptoms; of these some had meningitis, some had tingling and some had weakness. Of those with weakness (called "spinal polio" - perhaps 10 of the 1,000 infected) 8 would have asymmetric leg weakness and 2 would have leg weakness with diaphragmatic weakness ("bulbar polio") which could be fatal. Many recovered from the paralysis, but for some it persisted for life. If one limb is paralyzed by polio as a child, it will be shorter as an adult. Two to ten per 1,000 would die from the acute infection if it affected their breathing muscles (see opposite).

The March of Dimes.

On January 30th, 1934 (FDR's birthday), an annual Birthday Ball was started to help polio victims (see below). In 1937, Eddie Cantor (1892-1964), a famous American singer-comedian (see opposite), suggested the name "March of Dimes" – a wordplay on the "March of Time", a contemporary newsreel. In January 1938 FDR formally founded the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (polio usually affected children). Although it had been nicknamed the March of Dimes from the start, in 1976 the name was officially switched to March of Dimes. Every January they would ask children and adults to send in dimes or more for the cause.



**FDR in 1934 receiving a check for \$1 million for the March of Dimes.
Notice he is hanging onto a very sturdy chair and wearing calipers.**

1,000 infected -> 720 no symptoms

->240 flu like illness only

->40 neurologic symptoms -> meningitis

-> tingling

-> 10 weakness -> 8 spinal polio

-> 2 bulbar polio

Prognosis of polio infection

In the beginning the March of Dimes helped rehabilitation victims. But later, funds helped the vaccine researchers Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin to develop vaccines. Today it focuses on perinatal problems.

It is difficult for us today to understand people's fear of polio at the time, but it might be akin to the fear of Ebola virus. In the early 1950s, 15,000 cases of paralysis occurred each year in US. Every mother worried her child might become a cripple overnight, to use the words of the time, as well as its associated social rejection. When I was seven of eight living in France in 1955, my mother became extremely excited with the news of available injectable killed polio vaccine (the Salk vaccine), which I received immediately. All I remembered was a shot. She had a huge worry lifted from her. The Sabin vaccine came later as an attenuated virus administered by mouth.

The international incidence of polio has fallen dramatically since widespread vaccination. The Red Cross had focused on countries with high polio incidence to give vaccines. In 1988 the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) was launched to eradicate polio by 2000. Since then the incidence of polio has fallen by 99%. Previously polio was endemic in 125 countries, and now exists only in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria. The largest reservoir of polio is in Pakistan.

In Pakistan over 100,000 Lady Health Workers assist in the program. WHO, UNICEF, and the Gates Foundation finance it. Pakistan spends under 2% of GDP on health care. Poverty, isolation and illiteracy have compounded to prevent segments of the Pakistani population from getting vaccinated. Militants from the Pakistan-Afghanistan border region, supported by some religious clerics, have told locals that the vaccination program was a Western plot to sterilize Muslims, and that the vaccinators were spies for the CIA. Indeed, the CIA did fund a fake hepatitis B vaccination campaign in Abbottabad to trace Osama bin Laden – bad idea. Smallpox has already been eradicated, it is still possible polio could be eradicated too.

I recall also as a young medical student visiting a CEO who had visited Israel in the late 1960s but forgot to get a polio booster. He lived life in an iron lung, listening to classical music. His nurses were totally dedicated to him. We brightened his day by visiting him and talking with him.

One has to admire FDR for his lonely perseverance in the face of severe disability. Perhaps this is what gave him his sympathy for the public during the great depression, despite being born with a silver spoon in his mouth. It was his sympathy, elevating speeches, and positive, can-do attitude that made him a saint to so much of the public during the Great Depression.



FDR with Eddie Cantor, who suggested the name March of Dimes in 1937



FDR in a rare photograph in a wheelchair with Ruthie Bie (granddaughter of FDR's Hyde Park caretaker), and his dog Fala 1941.



Missy LeHand, FDR's secretary, receiving 30,000 dimes by mail January 1938.

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1948 FRANKLIN HALF DOLLAR FRANKLIN/LIBERTY BELL 12.5 GRAMS, 30.6 MM MS 64 FBL

2442

Other quasi-commemoratives. CC Alt 8

1948 Franklin Half Dollar.

Background.

Mint Director, Nellie Ross, had long admired Franklin and wanted to see him on a coin.

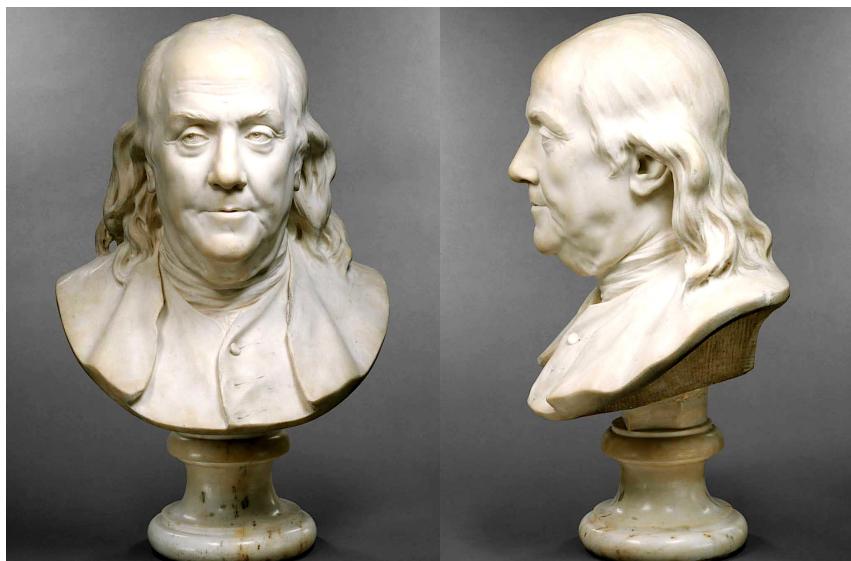
The Coin.

The obverse shows Franklin's bust facing right with the legend LIBERTY above and IN GOD WE TRUST below, and the date below Franklin's chin. John Sinnock's initials are on the truncation (this was to avoid further accusations by conspiracy theorists that the Kremlin had infiltrated and gotten Joseph Stalin's initials on US coins).

The reverse shows a cracked Liberty Bell with a spread-winged eagle in the right field and E PLURIBUS UNUM inscribed in the left field. The legends are UNITED STATES OF AMERICA above, and HALF DOLLAR below.

Introducing the coin.

In 1948, the walking liberty half dollar had been in production since 1916 i.e. over 25 years, so could be replaced without Congressional approval. In 1947 Mint Director, Nellie Ross, asked Sinnock to design a Franklin half dollar. In 1933 Sinnock had done a medal (see opposite) based on Jean-Antoine Houdon's bust of Franklin (see below).

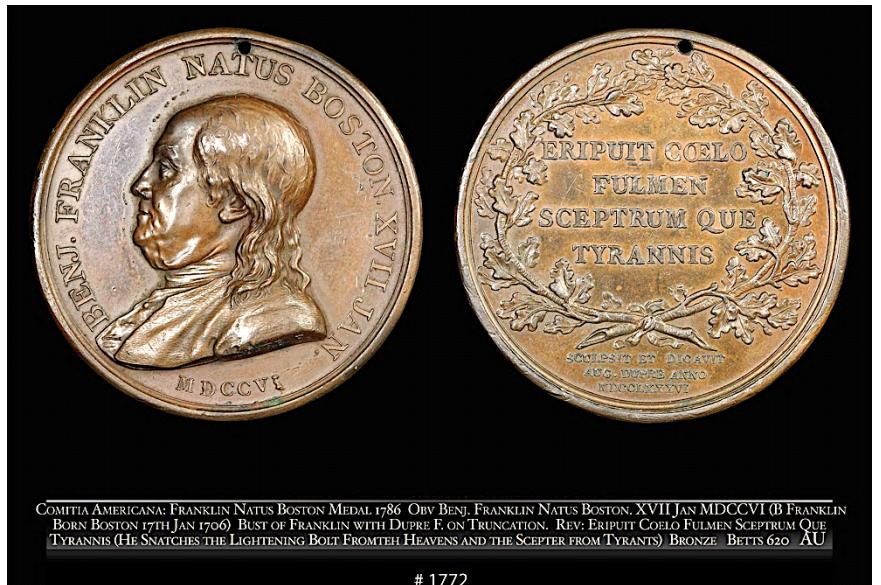


Houdon's marble bust of Franklin in Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Naturally Sinnock would have had access to other sculptures of Franklin like the Natus Boston Medal of 1786 by the French medalist Dupré, at bottom:



Sinnock's 1932 medal of Benjamin Franklin.



COMITIA AMERICANA: FRANKLIN NATUS BOSTON MEDAL 1786 OBV BENJ. FRANKLIN NATUS BOSTON. XVII JAN MDCCVI (B FRANKLIN BORN BOSTON 17TH JAN 1706) BUST OF FRANKLIN WITH DUPRE F. ON TRUNCATION. REV: ERIPUIT COELO FULMEN SCEPTRUM QUE TYRANNIS (HE SNATCHES THE LIGHTNING BOLT FROM THE HEAVENS AND THE SCEPTER FROM TYRANTS) BRONZE BETTS 620 AU

1772

Franklin Natus Boston Medal

And also possibly also the Terra Cotta Plaque by Nini in 1777:



Uniface terra cotta Plaque. Benjamin Franklin by Jean Baptiste Nini 1777 #2612

Sinnock copied his own liberty Bell from his 1926 US Sesquicentennial of Independence half dollar, itself based on a sketch by John Frederick Lewis (opposite).

Unfortunately, Sinnock was ill and died before finishing his reverse model which Gilroy Roberts, the new Chief Mint Engraver, completed. Sinnock died aged 59 in a hospital on Staten Island. Roberts added a small eagle when the Mint suddenly recalled the 1873 Coinage Act which specified that all coins over 10¢ had to have an eagle on the reverse!

The Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) approved the obverse commenting on Sinnock's "good workmanship". (Curiously a year before the CFA kept on disapproving his Roosevelt dime models – perhaps it was a case of, "don't speak ill of the dead"). However, the CFA did not approve Gilroy Robert's reverse saying that the eagle was too small and that depicting a cracked bell could cause derogatory comments about the US. Again the CFA suggested a design competition which would be judged by you know who! Yes! Themselves!



Liberty Bell from reverse of US Independence Sesquicentennial half dollar 1926.

Fortunately, the Treasury Secretary John Snyder, over-rode the CFA and approved the coin. The CFA's role is only advisory.

In January 1948 the Treasury issued a press release about the new circulating half dollar. Later that month Ross gave a speech noting Franklin's "Poor Richard" quote, "a penny saved is a penny earned". Actually Franklin's original quote was, "a penny saved is two pence dear".

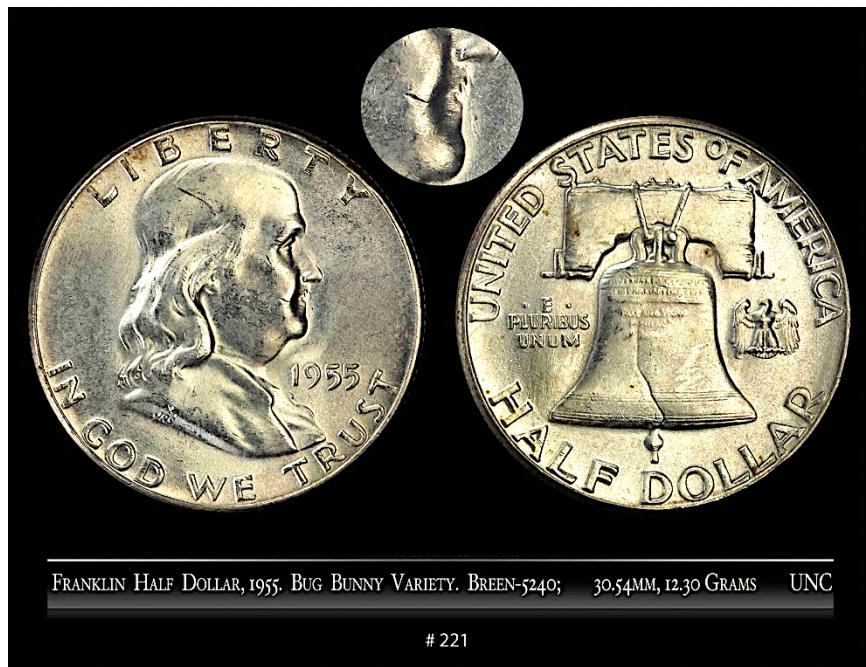
Why did the Mint not use the Lincoln cent for Franklin's image? Well, they had not wanted to change the Lincoln cent because it was so popular, so for that reason they used the half dollar for Franklin.

The Franklin half dollar was first officially released on April 30th, 1948 to the public from a booth outside the Sub-Treasury Building in New York City by Franklin Savings Bank employees dressed in revolutionary dress. The evening before, Ross gave a dinner party for two hundred VIPs each of whom received a Franklin half dollar in a card she signed.

After 16 years in production the half dollar was switched to the Kennedy half dollar following the assassination of President Kennedy on November 22nd, 1963.

The commonest collectible variety of the Franklin half dollar is caused by a die clash in front of Franklin's upper lip and is called the "Bugs Bunny" variety. If a Franklin half dollar is well struck seven parallel lines can be seen on the bell. In that case the coin is called "full bell lines" or FBL. The easiest way to get such a coin is usually to get a proof coin. Cameo proofs look even nicer, with mirror like fields and frosted devices.

The founding fathers are the key colonists who led the American Revolution. They are the first four presidents (George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison) and Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton and John Jay. These men more than most should be recognized on our coinage. However, popularity plays a huge role, and Adams, Hamilton and Jay have never appeared on circulating coinage, and I am doubtful that they ever will.



Bugs Bunny Variety of Franklin half dollar. 1955

In recent times more politically correct considerations have played a larger role e.g. Susan B. Anthony on a one-dollar coin intended for circulation which was first issued in 1979 (but which never really circulated), then Sacagawea on a one-dollar coin intended for circulation which was first issued in 2000 (but which also never really circulated). The US government will not grab the bull

by the horns and abolish the paper dollar. That would be the only way of getting the dollar coin to circulate. In England the £1 coin only circulated when the £1 note was abolished. In Europe there never was a €1 note or a €2 note (the €5 banknote being the smallest note), but the €1 and €2 coins circulate widely

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KENNEDY HALF DOLLAR 1964 90% SILVER, BREEN 5268; 30.6MM, 12.50 GRAMS NGC MS 65

2625

Other quasi-commemoratives. CC Alt 9

1964 Kennedy Half Dollar.

Background.

John F. Kennedy (JFK) was assassinated on November 22nd, 1963. The Franklin half dollar was 15 years old that year, and on December 30th, 1963 Congressional legislation directed that the Franklin half dollar be replaced with a half dollar commemorating Kennedy who had just been shot at the age of 46.

The coin.

The obverse shows the head of JFK looking left with Gilroy Roberts monogram GR on the truncation of JFK's neck. Below JFK is the inscription IN GOD WE TRUST. The legend above is LIBERTY, and below the date 1964.

The reverse shows the Presidential seal. This consists of a facing eagle grasping an olive branch of 13 leaves (13 for the original 13 states) in its right talons. The olive branch represents peace. In the eagle's left talons are 13 arrows representing war. Thus the country has the power of peace or war, but prefers peace over war. The eagle is looking right towards the peaceful talon*. The shield has 13 stripes representing the original 13 states. In the eagle's beak is a scroll with E PLURIBUS UNUM. Behind and above the eagle is "radiating glory" meaning the sun's rays, which are breaking through a cloud of 13 puffs, that surround the constellation of 13 stars (all for the 13 original states). These rays symbolize the light of Providence (reflecting America's reliance of the Protection of divine Providence). Fifty stars surround the whole reflecting the current 50 states. The legend reads UNITED STATES OF AMERICA •HALF DOLLAR• The monogram FG for Frank Gasparro is below the eagle's left leg.

Introducing the coin.

In 1963, the Franklin half dollar had been in existence from 1948. Thus being in existence less than 25 years the Franklin half dollar could not have been replaced without Congressional action. Within weeks of Kennedy's assassination on November 22nd 1963, Congress passed a law on December 30th, mandating the Kennedy half dollar replace the Franklin half dollar.

Within hours of Kennedy's assassination Mint Director, Eva Adams, told Chief Mint Engraver, Gilroy Roberts, there was a good chance they would need a Kennedy coin. Jacqueline Kennedy knew of this and did not want to replace George Washington on the quarter dollar. There was no circulating dollar coin so she wished to replace Franklin's head with her husband's. As tragic as Kennedy's assassination was, it was just the modern politically expedient thing to do, as I would in no way equate Kennedy's greatness to that of Franklin.

*Interestingly during the years 1798-1807 on draped bust silver coins with the heraldic eagle reverse, the eagle held the arrows in the right talon and olive branch in the left talon, presumably an engraving mistake by Robert Scott, Chief Mint Engraver 1793-1823.

Gilroy Roberts had sculpted JFK for his inaugural Presidential medal, and he got to work modifying Kennedy's bust for the coin. Both Gasparro and Gilroy Roberts had met Kennedy, so were familiar with his image. The Mint showed trial strikes to Jacqueline Kennedy who suggested only altering his hair.

Roberts then did the coin's obverse from his inaugural medal; and Frank Gasparro, Assistant Mint Engraver, took the coin's reverse from the Presidential seal.



Robert's obverse, & Gasparro's reverse of JFK Presidential Series medal.



Presidential Seal.

The Presidential seal is basically the same as the Great seal of the US except the Great seal does not have 50 stars around its circumference. The Presidential seal is used on notepaper, envelopes, lecterns, presidential transports (Air Force One, Marine One and the Presidential limousine), on Presidential china, Presidential burial sites, etc.

It was by simply modifying the Presidential Series Medal that Roberts and Gasparro were able to produce the dies so quickly, the first coin was struck on January 30th, 1964 just one month after Congress passed the bill!

The coins were released starting on March 24th, 1964. The public could not get enough of them. Coins were also presented to foreign leaders. Because so many of the coins were hoarded the Mint got Congressional authorization to continue striking the 1964 coins into 1965. 430 million coins were struck with the 1964 date.

But the price of silver was rising, and the half dollar at 90% silver already had 47 cents of bullion in it. So Congress passed a coinage Act in July 1964 eliminating silver from the dime and quarter dollar and reducing the bullion content of the half dollar to 40% silver. The Mint reduced the half dollar to 40% by making a sandwich of 80% silver on the outside with 21% silver filling on the inside. Planchets were punched out of these sandwiched sheets of metal. If you look at the edge of these coins dated 1965 to 1970 you can see that there is copper showing through in the middle.

Still in 1971 no half dollars seemed to circulate and the price of silver continued upwards. So the Mint decided to strike cupro-nickel half dollars instead (the same composition used for dimes and quarters since 1965). Thus silver bullion values certainly affected the collecting and spending of the Kennedy half dollar. As the value of even the 40% Kennedy half went up in the early 1980s I recall culling them from circulation and keeping them. Nevertheless, I never actually got round to taking them to a jeweler and selling them for bullion!

Factors that controlled Kennedy half-dollars' circulation.

- Bullion value – if high enough they got melted or secreted
- Sentimental value – many kept the coins despite over a billion minted.
- The government stopped minting silver half dollars in 1971, so more pre-1971 coins would be hoarded or melted, and less spent
- The public had already been hoarding Kennedy half dollars since 1964 and despite 457 million cupro-nickel half dollars minted in 1971, the coins saw little circulation.
- No 1975 dated coins were minted. Instead in 1975 and 1976 the Mint produced Bicentennial coins dated 1776 – 1976, which were first released to the public in 1975.
- 2001 was the last year of striking Kennedy halves for circulation, subsequently they were struck only for collectors.
- The government's silver supplies were rapidly dwindling from 1964 to 1970.

Silver Bullion Values for Half dollars

Date	Price per ounce	Value of 90% half dollar	Value of 40% half dollar
1900	\$0.62	\$0.23	N/A
1910	\$0.54	\$0.20	N/A
1920	\$1.02	\$0.37	N/A
1930	\$0.38	\$0.14	N/A
1940	\$0.35	\$0.13	N/A
1950	\$0.74	\$0.27	N/A
1960	\$0.91	\$0.33	N/A
1961	\$0.92	\$0.34	N/A
1962	\$1.09	\$0.40	N/A
1963	\$1.28	\$0.47	N/A
1964	\$1.29	\$0.47	N/A
1965	\$1.29	\$0.47	\$0.19
1966	\$1.29	\$0.47	\$0.19
1967	\$1.55	\$0.57	\$0.23
1968	\$2.14	\$0.79	\$0.32
1969	\$1.79	\$0.66	\$0.26
1970	\$1.77	\$0.65	\$0.26
1971	\$1.55	\$0.57	\$0.23
1972	\$1.68	\$0.62	\$0.25
1973	\$2.56	\$0.94	\$0.38
1974	\$4.71	\$1.73	\$0.70
1975	\$4.42	\$1.62	\$0.65
1976	\$4.35	\$1.60	\$0.64
1977	\$4.62	\$1.70	\$0.68
1978	\$5.40	\$1.98	\$0.80
1979	\$11.09	\$4.07	\$1.64
1980	\$20.63	\$7.57	\$3.05

Silver content and mintage of half dollars:

1964	430 million	90%	0.3617 oz. actual silver weight
1965-70	850 million	40%	0.1479 oz. actual silver weight
1971-74	2,030 million	0%	Cupro-nickel only no silver

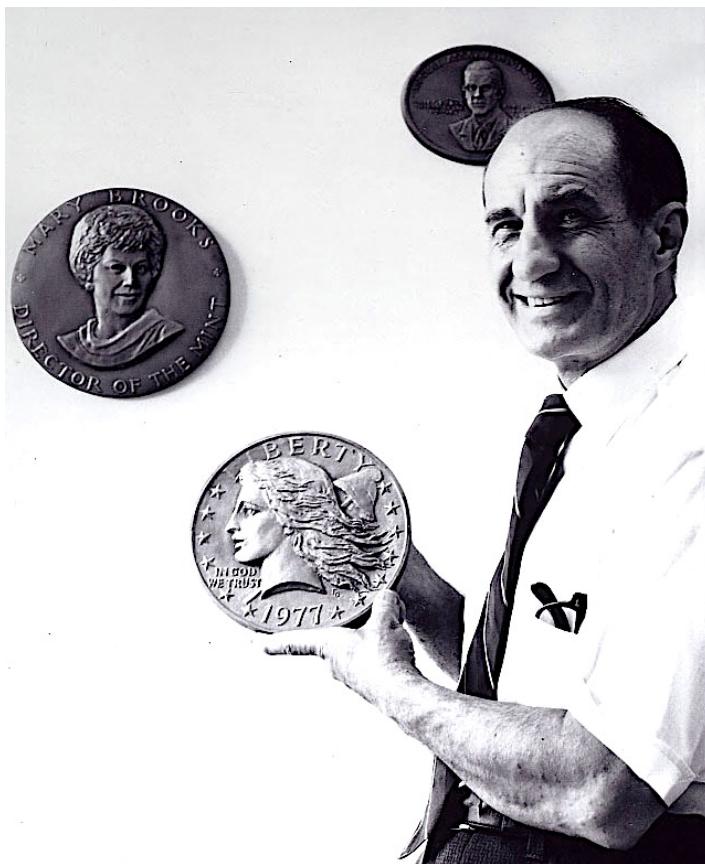
If you look up the price of silver, beware – it is often corrected for present day values, and may use a logarithmic scale:



Graph of silver prices per ounce 1960 to 1972 with no inflation adjustment



Graph of silver prices 1960 to 1972 adjusted for inflation with logarithmic scale



Frank Gasparro holding flowing hair liberty plaster design for proposed dollar coin, Philadelphia 1977.

Opposite, Gilroy Roberts working on plaster of JFK half dollar 1964.



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EISENHOWER DOLLAR 1971 S CUPRO-NICKEL. BREEN 5745; 38.09 MM, 24.27 GRAMS GEM PROOF

159

Other quasi-commemoratives. CC Alt 10

1971 Eisenhower Dollar.

Background.

Silver dollars were first produced in quantity starting in 1878. They worked well for Christmas presents, and would be cashed out of the bank before Christmas, and returned to the bank after Christmas. People would spend with more convenient paper money and subsidiary coins (all silver denominations except a dollar). Rarely children would keep the silver dollar as a memento, though today that might be like a child keeping a \$100 bill as a memento and not spending it. Silver dollars were never a popular circulating coin, except in casinos and a little in the West. Before Morgan dollars (1878-1921), quarters circulated more commonly than half dollars possibly because half dollars often spent a lot of time sitting in bank vaults rather than being spent.

The coin.

The obverse shows the head of Dwight Eisenhower facing left with the legend LIBERTY above and 1971 below, and the inscription IN GOD WE TRUST in the lower left field.

The reverse shows an eagle landing on the moon with an olive branch in its talons. This was a reference to America's moon landing in 1969 (the Apollo 11 mission). The image is based on the Apollo 11 insignia patch that the astronauts wore on their uniforms (see image next page). The earth can be seen in the distance in the left upper field. There is a semi-circle of 13 stars (for the original 13 states) around the eagle. Above the eagle is the inscription E PLURIBUS UNUM. The legends read UNITED STATES OF AMERICA above and ONE DOLLAR below.

Introducing the coin.

The last silver dollar struck had been the Peace dollar in 1935. As discussed in the chapter on Peace dollars there was a brief idea to restrike Peace dollars in 1964 when a Western Senator, Mike Mansfield, thought it might be nice for casinos. The fact that their bullion value would have been almost exactly one dollar seems to have escaped him. But after storms of protest from the Mint Director and politicians, the 1964 dollars were never released. Congress then rescinded the authorization to produce them and ordered them melted. Federal Reserve notes replaced silver certificates in 1963 when the price of silver bullion rose to 94 cents per minted dollar. A few years later you could no longer redeem paper silver certificates for silver coins or bullion.

Though large sized circulating dollars had never been popular and only circulated a little in the West, this fact also seemed to have escaped the Mint when they planned on another large sized circulating dollar in 1971. And this time there wasn't even any silver in it!

Mint Director, Mary Brooks, again proposed a circulating silver dollar in 1969. Bear in mind that the price of silver in January 1969 was \$2 an ounce. Also the Mint had already depleted US silver reserves and in 1965 had reduced the content of the half dollar from 90% to 40%.

Within another five years' silver prices would rise to over \$5 an ounce. (A silver dollar contained 0.7734 ounces of silver). Of course it is easy in hindsight to see that bullion silver could so easily overtake face value of coins. Fortunately, Congress blocked Brook's proposal to mint a silver dollar in 1968.

On March 28th, 1969, the hero of the Second World War, and two-term President Dwight Eisenhower died. Rep Florence Dwyer (R-NJ) proposed an Eisenhower dollar. Rep Leonora Sullivan (D-MO) agreed. Their reasoning was that as a Democrat (Kennedy) was on a half dollar, a Republican should be on a coin too. A Professional Coin Grading Service article on Eisenhower dollars comments "use of Eisenhower on a coin was just as political as the Kennedy half dollar.... or the Roosevelt dime".

On October 29th, 1969, US Congressman from Texas, Bob Casey, introduced a bill to honor Eisenhower and the 1969 US moon landing. A year of Congressional horse-trading followed. Congress felt that a large size dollar would work in casinos and vending machines. (There was some input from the vending machine industry favoring the new dollar, though after it appeared, virtually no machines would accept the new dollar).

In 1970 Congress passed the "Bank Holding Company Act Amendments of 1970". This included the following:

- An Eisenhower dollar without silver
- No silver in future Kennedy half dollars
- Transfer government owned silver dollars to the General Services Administration (GSA) to sell them to the public.

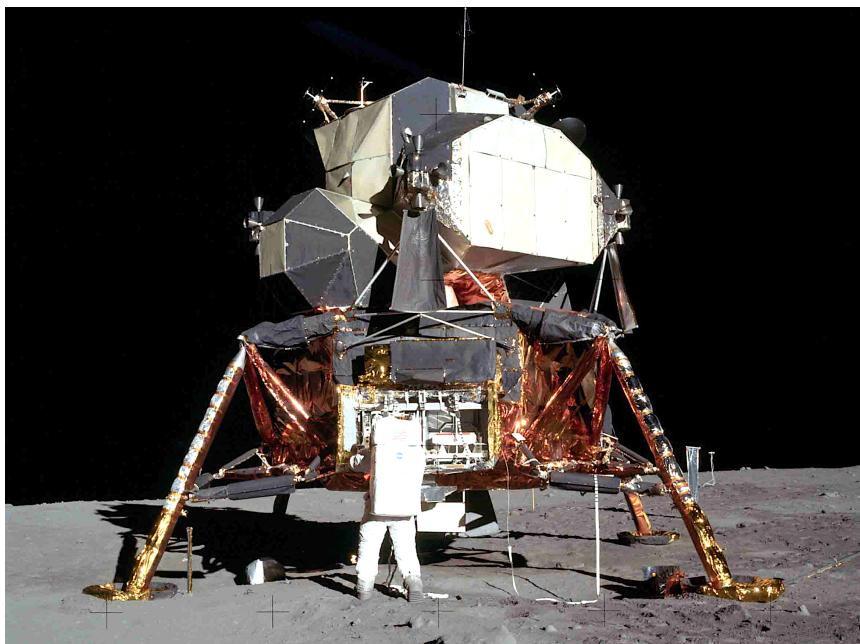
Congressman Casey wanted the Apollo 11 mission statement "we came in peace for all mankind" on the coin, but the Mint said there was not enough room. Instead they settled on the excellent reverse symbolism of the eagle landing on the moon with an olive branch in its talons. Apollo 11 was the first Apollo mission to land on the moon and the lunar landing craft's name was Eagle. So the eagle landing on the moon is a visual pun. It represents the lunar lander, and it represents America in peace (olive branch in eagle's talons) landing on the moon.

Some Senators objected to a non-silver Eisenhower dollar. Eisenhower's widow, Mamie wrote saying Eisenhower collected Morgan dollars from 1890 (his birth year) to give as mementos to people. A compromise was worked out for collector coins to have 40% silver (in the same sandwich composition as Kennedy half dollars) and circulating dollars to be cupro-nickel. They felt that was there would be no hoarding of dollars from circulation which was what had driven the Kennedy halves out of circulation. The bill passed the Senate September 1970 and was signed into law by Nixon on New Year's Eve 1970.

Frank Gasparro, Chief Mint Engraver from 1965 to 1981, had drawn Eisenhower ("Ike") in 1945 after he saw him in a parade. Then from 1969 to 1970, while legislation was being worked on for the Eisenhower dollar, he prepared the obverse model and two reverse models. One reverse model had an eagle landing on the moon and another had a plain eagle. They both grasped an olive branch with their talons.



Gasparro's 2 reverse designs: left, plain eagle; right, eagle landing on moon.



Apollo 11 landing craft named "Eagle" landed on moon 1969.

Mint Director Brooks asked Gasparro to make the eagle look less aggressive, fierce, and warlike. It is difficult to see the eagle as having those qualities, but people worried about those things then – after all America was the greatest but we did not want to be seen as rubbing it in!

The portrait of Eisenhower, like so many coin portraits, engendered criticism. His expression was said to be too stern, and should have been more like his genial personality. Cornelius Vermeule (see references) said the portrait was

"too brutally sculptural and elongated". Others complained that Ike's hair (what there was of it) looked unnatural (at least he wasn't wearing a toupee!). Others complained the earth on the reverse did not look right. Actually Gasparro had been told to show the earth as it looked on the Apollo 11 mission patch designed by astronaut, Michael Collins. Collins was the one who stayed in the command capsule orbiting the moon after the moon landing.



Apollo 11 Mission arm patch designed by astronaut Michael Collins.

Later the Mint asked Gasparro to make the earth more realistic to satisfy all those members of the public who took out a magnifying lens to inspect the earth to see whether it looked like the real earth. Julian states that the problem was cleared up, but look at these pictures:



Type 1, Type II, and Type III earths on reverse (please see text)

The Wikipedia article on Eisenhower dollars classifies the Ike reverse earth into three types. Numismatists love to find different varieties of the same coin, sometimes with arcane differences! These all look basically the same to me, I certainly would not say that Gasparro had fiddled to make the earth clearer! Wikipedia comments:

"Type I dollars show the Earth somewhat flattened, Florida pointing to the southeast, with the islands mostly to the southeast of the tip of the peninsula. The Earth is round and Florida points to the south on the Type II, with a single, large island to the southeast. The Type III is similar to the Type II, except that there are two islands directly to the south of the peninsula. The Type II is from a single reverse die, used in March 1972, and erroneously placed in service at Philadelphia—it is identical to and should have been used for the silver proof strikes at San Francisco. The Type III was placed in service, replacing the Type I, in September 1972. The Type I is most common; the Type III design was used in 1973 and after. The 1972 Type II is expensive in top grades, as is the 1776–1976 Type I from Philadelphia, which was only available in mint sets".

Cupro-nickel does not flow as well as silver when struck, as it is a harder metal, so the dies wore out quickly. By this time the Mint knew how to operate their Janvier reducing lathe and Gasparro used it repeatedly to lower the relief to get more working life out of the dies. So in 1971 and most of 1972 the circulating coins were low relief, which numismatists dislike. But in 1973 the Mint used a new steel die, which was harder and could withstand high striking pressures. The proof coinage (1971S and 1972S) were high relief as they were silver which is softer, and they were struck multiple times because they were proofs.

The first proof coin in 1971 was struck on March 31st, 1971 with Mint Director Brooks operating the press. The first one struck given to Mamie, Ike's widow, the second was given to Mamie's grandson David, and the third to David's father-in-law President Nixon.



Brown Ike”



“Blue Ike”

The Mint had sent out order forms for the 1971 S silver uncirculated and proof coins to 44,000 post offices, and 33,000 banks. (The letter S means the coin was struck at the San Francisco Mint). The proofs sold for \$10 and came in hard plastic capsules in a brown box (called “brown Ikes” see below). The uncirculated silver coins sold for \$3 and came in soft plastic containers in a blue envelope (called “blue Ikes” see above). Collectors bought six million proof and nine million uncirculated 40% silver coins from the San Francisco Mint in 1971 and 1972.

The cupro-nickel coins came poorly struck initially and often with a layer of oil on the coin which numismatists simply wiped off. 300 million coins were minted in 1971 and 1972. But the cupro-nickel non-premium circulating coins did not circulate. 70% of them wound up in casinos. Casinos tired of them because the public often took them home as souvenirs leaving the casinos in short supply. For the casinos one dollar tokens were cheaper and more reliable, and if the customer took them home the casino made a big profit.

Later in 1974 Congress mandated that some of the profits from collector coin strikes go to Eisenhower College in New York State (who ultimately received \$9 million). Numismatists felt that was just pure pork. I assume the legislator who initiated the bill was from New York State.

In 2019, the US Mint produced a semi-centennial of the Apollo moon landing. The Secretary of the Treasury selected a common obverse image for three different coins from a juried public competition. The coins are a silver dollar, a cupro-nickel half dollar and a five-dollar gold coin. The amazing thing to me about the 1969 moon landing is that it was accomplished without modern computers.

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WASHINGTON QUARTER BICENTENNIAL 1776-1976 S, BREEN-4450; 24.32, 5.54 GRAMS PF 65

86



BICENTENNIAL KENNEDY HALF DOLLAR, 1776-1976. CUPRO-NICKEL CLAD COPPER. BREEN-5302; 30.63MM, 11.05 GRAMS GEM PROOF

88



EISENHOWER BICENTENNIAL DOLLAR 1776 - 1976 CUPRO-NICKEL. BREEN 5769; 38.10 MM, 22.34 GRAMS PROOF

46

Other quasi-commemoratives. CC

Alt 11, 12 and 13, Bicentennial

Quarter Half and Dollar 1776-1976

Background.

The circulating coins so far listed as commemorative (Lincoln cent 1909, Peace dollar 1921, Washington quarter 1932, Jefferson nickel 1938, Roosevelt dime 1946, Franklin half dollar 1948, Kennedy half dollar 1964 and Eisenhower dollar 1971) were all inspired by these great men often with specific dates in mind, but not labeled as commemorative coins. However, the US Mint wanted to create a circulating set of quarter, half and one dollar coins in 1976 for the Independence Bicentennial, which they specifically labeled as circulating commemorative coins.

The coins.

The circulating quarter, half, and one dollar obverses remained the same except for the date which was dual – 1776 • 1976.

The quarter dollar reverse showed a revolutionary drummer facing half right. In the left field is a torch flame surrounded by a circle of 13 stars (for the original 13 states). The torch symbolizes liberty. Below the torch is the inscription E PLURIBUS UNUM. Legends are UNITED STATES OF AMERICA above, and QUARTER DOLLAR below. The initials JLA for Jack L. Ahr, the sculptor, are beneath the drummers forearm on the right.

The half dollar reverse shows Independence Hall in Philadelphia, where the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution were debated and adopted. The inscriptions to the left of the Hall read 200 YEARS OF FREEDOM, and to the right E PLURIBUS UNUM, and below reads INDEPENDENCE HALL, beneath which is an arc of 13 stars for the original 13 states. The legends read UNITED STATES OF AMERICA above and HALF DOLLAR below. The initials SGH for Seth G. Huntington, the sculptor, are below E PLURIBUS UNUM.

The dollar reverse shows the moon, carrying over from the usual Eisenhower reverse the amazing achievement of landing men on the moon in 1969. Superimposed on this is the Liberty Bell, which chimed to summon Philadelphia citizens to attend the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence July 8th, 1776 (“the chime that changed the world”). The Liberty Bell thus symbolizes independence. In the lower right field is inscribed E PLURIBUS UNUM. Legends are UNITED STATES OF AMERICA above, and ★ONE DOLLAR★ below. The initials DRW for Dennis R. Williams, the sculptor, are below the bell.

The black spots you see on the dollar coin are called carbon spots, and are concentrated areas of oxidation of the surface metal often due to small droplets of liquid landing on the coin while someone was speaking, coughing or sneezing over the coin.

Introducing the coins.

After the exploitation of early commemorative programs by private organizations and individuals, culminating with S.J. Phillips' incompetence with the Carver/ Washington half dollar of 1951 to 1954, the Treasury Department resisted further commemorative programs. In 1966 Congress established the American Reverse Bicentennial Commission (ARBC) to plan celebrations of the bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence in 1976. In 1970 ARBS suggested special designs for all circulating coins in 1976, which the Treasury opposed. Congress tried again in 1971 and 1972. The Treasury still resisted.

The Mint Director, Mary Brooks, supported a 1776•1976 double date on coins but said that changing six circulating coins (cent, nickel, dime, quarter, half and dollar) would be a “disaster” (code for far too much work for the Mint). But by 1972 she was wavering.

In 1973, further Congressional suggestions followed and the Treasury Department (which includes the Mint) said they supported bicentennial coins. More bills and more testimony with Brooks followed. On June 13th, 1972, a bill providing for circulating quarter, half, and one-dollar coins along with collectible 40% clad silver coins was introduced. After further meetings Congress and the Treasury decided to change only the reverse of these three coins, and double date the obverse. The bill allowed 15 million 40% silver clad coins of each denomination, and the same denominations struck in cupro-nickel coins for circulation which could be struck between July 4th, 1975 and December 31st, 1976. Nixon signed off on the bill October 18th, 1973.

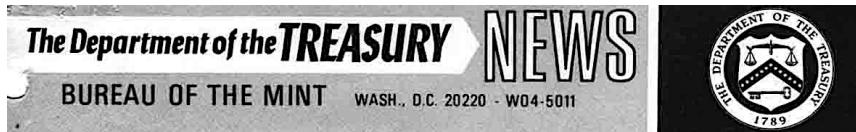
On October 23rd, 1973 the Treasury Department announced a design competition for three reverses with \$5,000 prizes. Brooks asked the National Sculpture Society to select five judges (see Treasury News next page). From 884 entries the judges selected 12 semi-finalists who received \$750 each (big deal!).

Consider this: the sculptors who won would have their designs on 100 million dollar coins, 500 million half dollar coins and 1.7 billion quarter dollar coins. This was a national competition of the wealthiest country in the world. \$5,000 seems a too cheap a prize. For example, the Van Cliburn piano competition winner gets \$50,000, a three-year individualized career management program, US concert tours, and recording contracts. The Nobel committee gives prizes of around \$1 million. It seems that the visual arts have long perpetuated the feeling that the only wealthy artist is a dead artist. The US government were cheapskates with their prizes. Even the 2018 commemorative World War I design winner only got \$10,000.

From the twelve semi-finalists the judges selected six finalists. The National Bicentennial Coin Design Competition Committee judged these six finalists and recommended the winners to the Treasury Secretary Shultz.

Jack L. Ahr, who owned a commercial art firm, won the quarter reverse. Seth G. Huntington, who was the head artist for a publishing company, won the half dollar reverse. Dennis R. Williams, who was an art student, aged 22, won the

dollar reverse. All three coins broke with the tradition of using an eagle on the reverse. Frank Gasparro, Chief Mint Engraver, slightly modified all designs mostly for technical reasons. He also assisted in creating models of the designs to reduce to master dies on the US Mint's Janvier reducing lathe.



FOR RELEASE 11:00 A.M.
TUESDAY, October 23, 1973

October 23, 1973



\$5,000 BICENTENNIAL COINAGE DESIGN COMPETITION

The Department of the Treasury will award \$5,000 to each of the three winners of a national competition for reverse designs emblematic of the Bicentennial of the American Revolution for the dollar, half dollar and quarter dollar, Mrs. Mary Brooks, Director of the Mint, announced today.

President Nixon signed the Bicentennial coinage design legislation on October 18, 1973. In addition to providing for new Bicentennial reverse designs on the dollar, half dollar and quarter dollar, to be dated 1776-1976, the Act also calls for the mintage of at least 45 million silver-clad Bicentennial coins. It is the first time in history that designs on circulating coins are being changed to celebrate an anniversary of American Independence.

Because of the historic significance of the new coin designs, Mrs. Brooks asked the National Sculpture Society to conduct a nationwide competition for the new designs. The competition is open to all sculptors who are citizens of the United States and printed competition instructions are available on request from:

The National Sculpture Society
c/o The United States Bullion Depository
West Point, New York 10996

Competition guidelines are also available at the United States Mints in Philadelphia and Denver, the Old Mint in San Francisco and the Bureau of the Mint, Department of the Treasury, Washington, D. C. 20220.

Because coin designs must be compatible with the coining process, it is requested that all competition entrants acquire a copy of the printed instructions before entering a design in the \$5,000 competition.

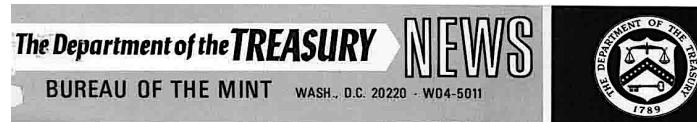
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Mint Announcement of Design Competition in 1973 for bicentennial coins.

On August 12th, 1974, each competition winner operated a press to strike the first coins of each of their designs. Each coin was 90% silver proof without any mintmark. One set was displayed under armed guard at the American Numismatic Association's convention in Florida that year. Other sets were given to President Gerald Ford, the President's Counselor Anne Armstrong, and John Warner the Director of the American Revolutionary Bicentennial Administration (successor to ARBC). All these coins are very rare as only a handful exist.



President Ford receives 1974 coins, John Warner left, Mary Brooks right.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESIDENT RECEIVES BICENTENNIAL COINS

Mrs. Mary Brooks, Director of the Mint, presented first strikes of newly designed Bicentennial silver proof coins to the President today at the White House.

The new reverse designs on the double-dated 1776-1976 quarter, half dollar and dollar were chosen in a national design competition. In accordance with Public Law 93-127, the new designs are slated to appear on cupro-nickel circulating coins as well as on proof and uncirculated specimens in cupro-nickel and 40% silver.

This is the first time circulating coinage has been re-designed to honor an anniversary of American Independence. The Mint hopes the wide distribution of the three coins will call appropriate attention to our Bicentennial and serve as reminders of our nation's rich heritage and dedication to freedom.

The new designs will appear on all circulating quarters, halves and dollars issued for distribution by the Federal Reserve System beginning July 4, 1975, and continuing through the Bicentennial year. Orders for the three piece silver proof and uncirculated sets will be taken beginning November 15, 1974 and continue through January 31, 1975, or until reaching maximum production capacity.

The Mint had to get an early start if it was to significantly participate in celebrating the Bicentennial. Now that so many of the new projects are reaching fulfillment, changes in ordering cycles had to be made to permit the smooth inclusion of the new special coins and medals programs.

Attached is a list of ordering periods for Bicentennial coins and medals during 1975. Please be aware that cut-off dates could be earlier than noted if orders exceed the Mint's production capacity for each separate offering and that orders are limited to a maximum of five sets, or units, per person.

Persons already on the Mint's mailing list will automatically receive order cards at the appropriate time for all special coins and medals made available by the Mint. Those not on the list may obtain order forms for the new silver bicentennial coins at local banks and Post Offices. Persons using these order forms will be added to the Mint's mailing list. Others wishing to be added to the list should write to: Bureau of the Mint, 55 Mint Street, San Francisco, California 94175.

Mint Announcement of 1974 90% Silver strikes of handful of bicentennial coin



1974 90% silver strikes from Ford Museum archives.



Type 1 Eisenhower dollar left note thick legend lettering.
Type 2 right note thick lettering and better strike.

The Mint asked \$15 for the proof 40% silver sets and \$9 for the uncirculated set, then later in 1975 cut prices to \$12 and \$7 respectively. No coins dated 1975 were released. The cupro-nickel versions for circulation were being poorly struck creating an indistinct image on the coins in 1975. Brooks ordered production stopped and asked Gasparro to modify the designs to make them strike up better. One clearly noted difference was the Type II reverse of the

dollar with narrow letters. The Mint sold the 1776 • 1976 sets for a number of years at different prices varying with the price of silver.

On the following pages are the images of the Susan B. Anthony dollar struck from 1979 to 1981, and again in 1999. It was a very unpopular series sometime called “the Susan B. Agony dollar”. Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906) was a US social reformer and important suffragette. The dollar was too close to the size of a quarter dollar and often confused with it.

Next are images of the Sacagawea dollar in a new brass alloy, which included manganese. These looked nice when new, but they quickly discolored. Sacagawea was the Native American guide who helped the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The Mint made dollars with her image on the obverse and an eagle on the reverse from 2000 to 2008. In 2009 the Mint started the Native American series. These coins still featured Sacagawea’s bust on the obverse and showed new reverses each year memorializing Native American contributions to the development of the US. This series is still in production.

Finally, the 1848 CAL quarter eagle is shown, considered by some the first commemorative US coin. The first gold from the Californian gold rush was shipped back to Philadelphia. Quarter eagles were made from it in 1848, which had the letters “CAL” punched above the eagle on the reverse. Professional Coin Grading Service list the coin in the \$40,000 to \$400,000 range according to condition, so the coin is collectable only by the fortunate few.

This book does not deal with modern commemorative coins which started in 1982; presidential dollars which lasted from 2007 to 2016; the State Quarter Program which lasted from 1999 to 2009; the America the Beautiful Quarters program which started in 2010 and is still in progress; and bullion issues. One has to draw a line somewhere!

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- https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/98/First_Bicentennial_coins.png
- <https://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/document/0011/168331.pdf>



SUSAN B. ANTHONY DOLLAR CUPRO-NICKEL CLAD COPPER 1980 S BREEN 5841; 26.50 MM, 7.98 GRAMS GEM PROOF

45

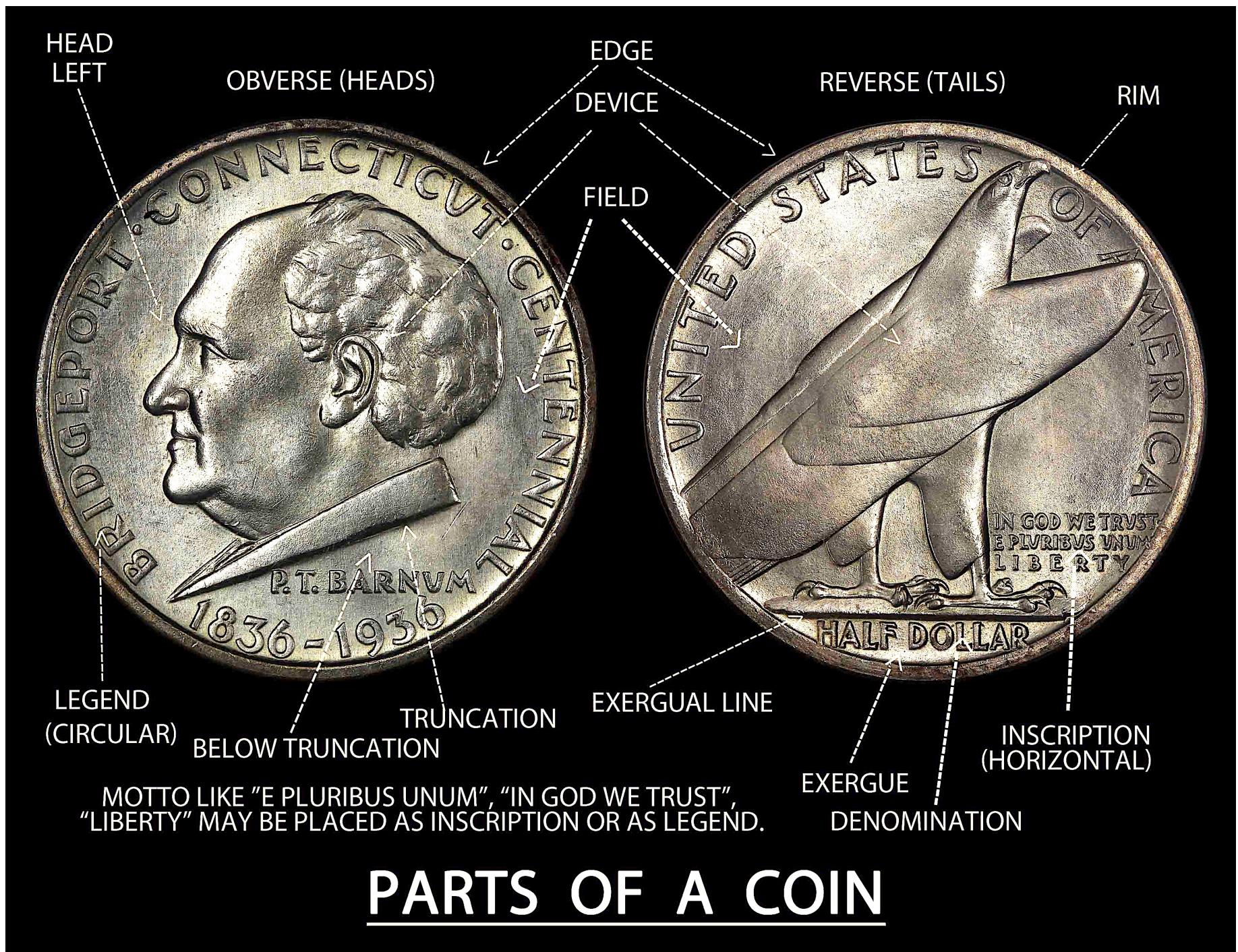


SACAGAWEA DOLLAR MANGANESE BRASS CLAD COPPER 2000 P. 26.50 MM, 7.90 GRAMS GEM UNC FROM CHANGE

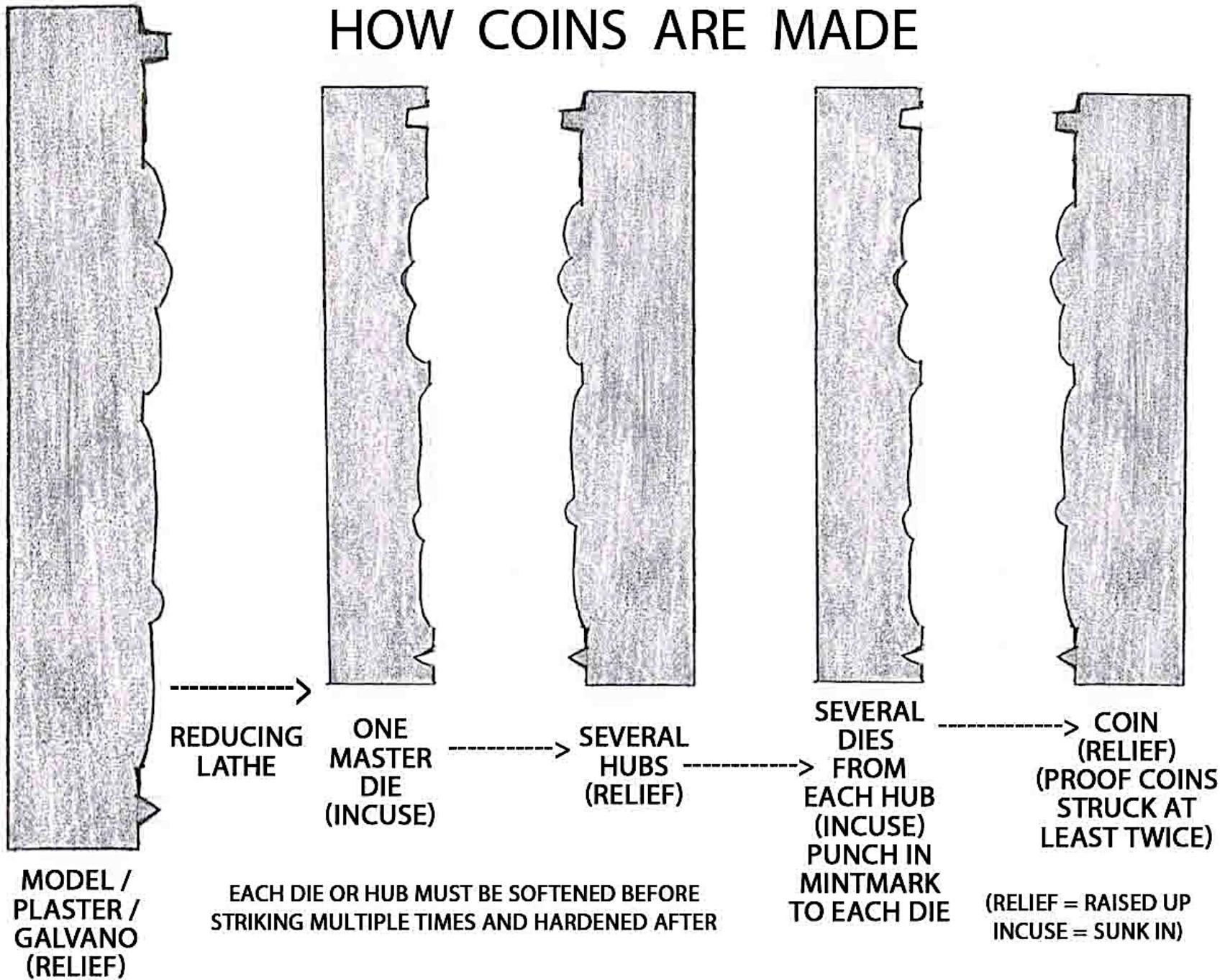
X \$



1848 CAL QUARTER EAGLE COURTESY OF HERITAGE AUCTIONS, HA.COM



HOW COINS ARE MADE



List of Explorers of America.

970-1020 Leif Erikson. First European to discover continental North America before Columbus. The Irish would disagree saying St. Brendan sailed to America in the sixth century. Viking settlement called Vinland has been found at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland which is now felt to have been a ship repair station. Another settlement may have been established in the St. Lawrence gulf area.

1492 Christopher Columbus sailed to Hispaniola (today known as the Dominican Republic and Haiti). He never actually set foot on mainland US, but did set foot in what is today Panama.

1497 - 1498 John Cabot was an Italian named Giovanni Caboto and worked for the British mapping Labrador to Cape Cod for Henry VII. He claimed Newfoundland for the English Crown.

1500 Pedro Alvares Cabral discovered Brazil for Portugal.

1513 Ponce de Leon sent by King Ferdinand II arrived on gulf coast of Florida. He was the first European to visit modern day US.

1513 Vasco Nunez de Balboa, explored Panama and was the first European to see the Pacific Ocean which was called the "South Seas" because in Panama the ocean was south not west.

1519 Ferdinand Magellan, from Portugal, led five ships for the Spanish on the first circumnavigation of the world crossing through the dangerous straits of Magellan between modern day Chile and Tierra del Fuego. Upon reaching the Philippines he was killed by Philippine natives.

1524 Giovanni da Verrazano explored for King Francis I of France from South Carolina to Newfoundland. He thought New York harbor was a lake.

1526 Narvaez and Cabeza de Vaca travelled to Florida to claim more territory for Spain. Cabeza de Vaca travelled through modern day Florida, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.

1534 Jacque Cartier explored the St. Lawrence River area for King Francis I of France and claimed it for France.

1539 Hernando De Soto explored modern day Florida, Georgia and Alabama, to the Mississippi River for Spain.

1540 Francisco Vasquez de Coronado explored the Rio Grande and the Colorado River to Santa Fe, New Mexico.

1542 - 1543 Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo was the first European to describe Alta California (Upper California). He died from an infected wound on the way back south in Santa Catalina Island.

1577 - 1581 Sir Francis Drake, an Englishman, took five ships and circumnavigated the world. He explored the San Francisco Bay area and claimed California for Queen Elizabeth I.

1603 - 1615 Samuel de Champlain founded Quebec, and claimed the St. Lawrence River basin as New France.

1607 - 1616 Captain John Smith participated in the founding of the English colony Jamestown in 1607. In 1608 he explored the rivers of Virginia and the Chesapeake Bay, which he mapped. In 1609 after injury from a gunpowder explosion he returned to England. In 1614 he explored and mapped the coast of New England, which he published in 1616. It is thought many of his writings embellished the truth.

1609 - 1610 Henry Hudson, an English sea explorer and navigator, looked for the Northwest Passage for the Dutch East India Company. He explored the Hudson River going up 150 miles to present day Albany, laying the foundations for New Netherland, and New Amsterdam. In 1610 he explored Hudson Bay which he claimed for the English. He was set adrift by mutineers and never heard of again.

1673 René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle, a Frenchman, explored the Great Lakes and Mississippi River in 1682. He named Louisiana after the French King Louis XIV.

1759 - 1779 Captain James Cook, an Englishman, explored the St. Lawrence River, New Zealand and Hawaii. He was famous for instituting naval changes that hugely decreased the mortality of sailors.

The Process of Introducing a Commemorative coin.

1. Form a coin commission or similar group with people who have political connections, organizational abilities, and a passion for commemorating a particular event.
2. Ask legislators in both houses to push for a bill
3. House of Representatives pass the bill
4. Senate passes the bill
5. President approves the bill
6. Commission hires a sculptor. Before 1918 coin dies were made by engravers employed by the US Mint. They engraved the design on tiny metal dies using tools called gravers to push metal around. After 1921, when the Mint had figured out how to use their Janvier reducing lathe with the Peace dollar models, any sculptor could make a model of clay or plaster of Paris, which could then be reduced on a reducing lathe.
7. Sculptor prepares models which commission pays for, typically \$1,000 to \$2,000.
8. Models sent to the Mint when Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) approves the model or requests changes. The CFA has a director and several panel members, the most important of which is the sculptor member. Their decision is purely advisory and can be overruled by the Director of the Mint, or the Treasury Department.
9. Before 1921 the models were sent to the Medallic Art Company of New York City who would reduce the model to a master die on a Janvier reducing lathe. The Mint had one too but were not skilled at operating it until 1921. The Commission has to pay for this step too.
10. Master die sent to the mint who make a hub and production dies. The mintmarks are only struck into the production dies.
11. Philadelphia Mint distributes dies to branch mints.
12. Coins are struck
13. Coins paid for at the denomination rate e.g. 50 cents for each half dollar struck. The mint makes a profit called seigniorage because the face value of the coin is worth more than its production costs and bullion content.
14. Coins are sent to Commemorative Coin Commission or their designated distributor, often banks, for sale.
15. Commission markets the coin, and hopes that final profits exceed expenses and helps their cause (in some cases the Commission was the cause).

Taken from "Engraving" by D. Wayne Johnson, MCA Advisory November/December 2017 Pages 26-32.

Until around 1900 coins and medals were made by creating dies carved by engravers who used tools to push metal around to engrave small dies. Various reducing lathes or pantographs had been invented but did not result in bas-relief sculptors displacing engravers till around 1900.

The Contamin pantograph was first used by the US Mint by Franklin Peale (1795-1870) who used iron casts of a wax portrait of President John Tyler in 1841 for three sizes of Indian Peace medals in 1842. But iron casts created inferior dies because of lack of sharp angulation at corners and poor detail.

In 1837 Moritz Von Jacobi (1801-1874) invented the electrotype process, which enabled electroplating of silverware, and making shells of dies, called galvanos. These were hard enough that they could be used on a reducing lathe as plaster of Paris and clay were too soft.

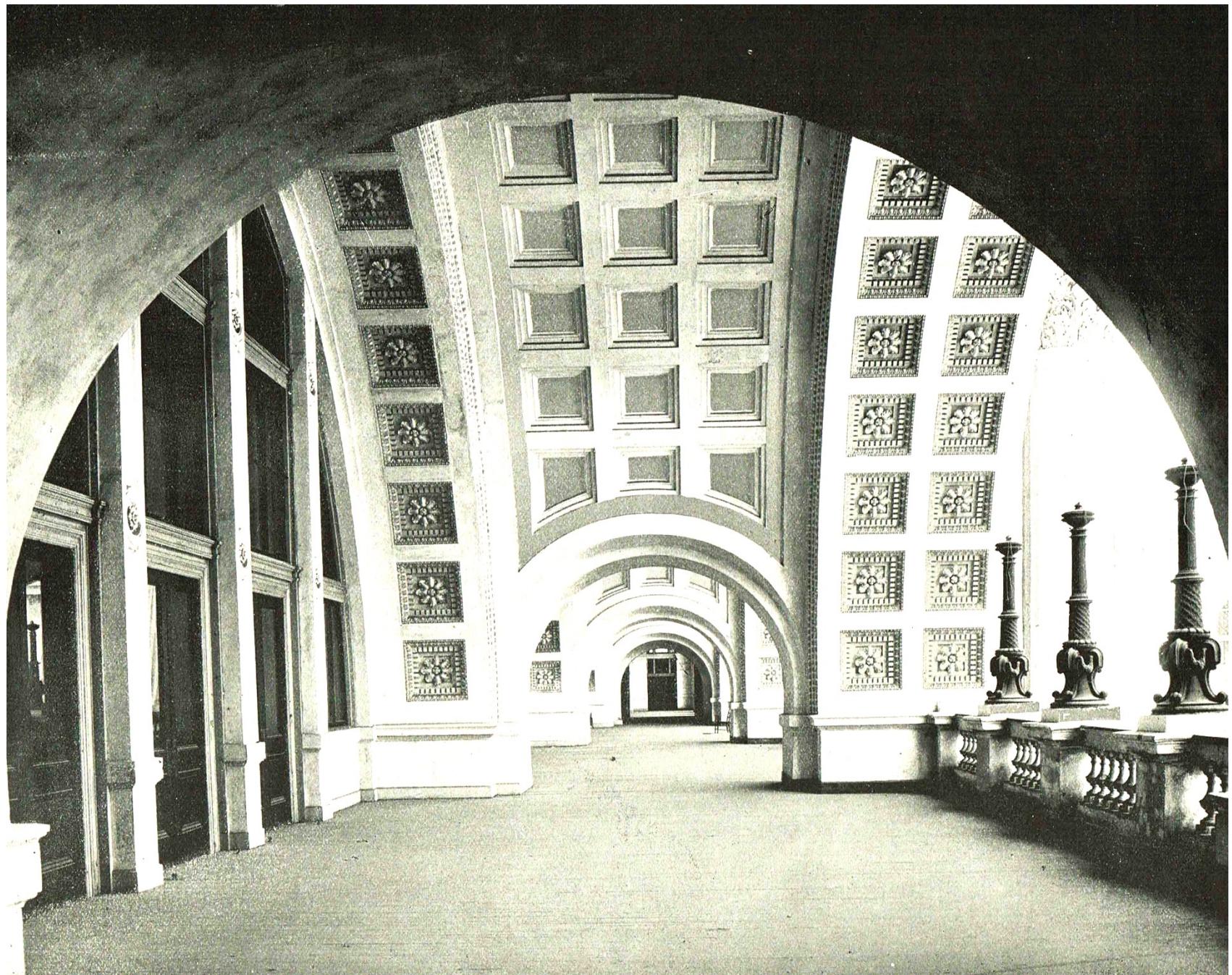
However, it was not until Victor Janvier in 1892 improved the die engraving pantograph that a reliable detailed die or negative die could be made from a galvano. Later they used an epoxy cast of a plaster of Paris or clay bas-relief sculpture. The US Mint bought their first Janvier reduction lathe (or pantograph) in 1907.

It was first used for the peace dollar in 1921. Before then the Mint personnel had insufficient experience with it to be able to use the machine effectively, and all reductions had to be done on the Janvier reducing lathe of the Medallic Art Company in New York City.

After the first effective use of the reducing lathe die engravers were no longer needed. Instead sculptors created plaster of Paris or clay bas-relief models which were converted to galvanos using Jacobi's electrotyping process. The galvano (which were metal early on and later a hard epoxy cast) was put on the Janvier machine and any size die in positive or negative could be created on softened steel. The relief of the die could also be increased or decreased at will by changing the settings on the Janvier machine.

PICTURES FROM THE COLUMBIAN EXHIBITION - JUST STROLL AROUND!

These pictures are taken from a series of German photographic books published in 1893 entitled Die Verschwundene Weisse Stadt Columbische Kunst Serie.



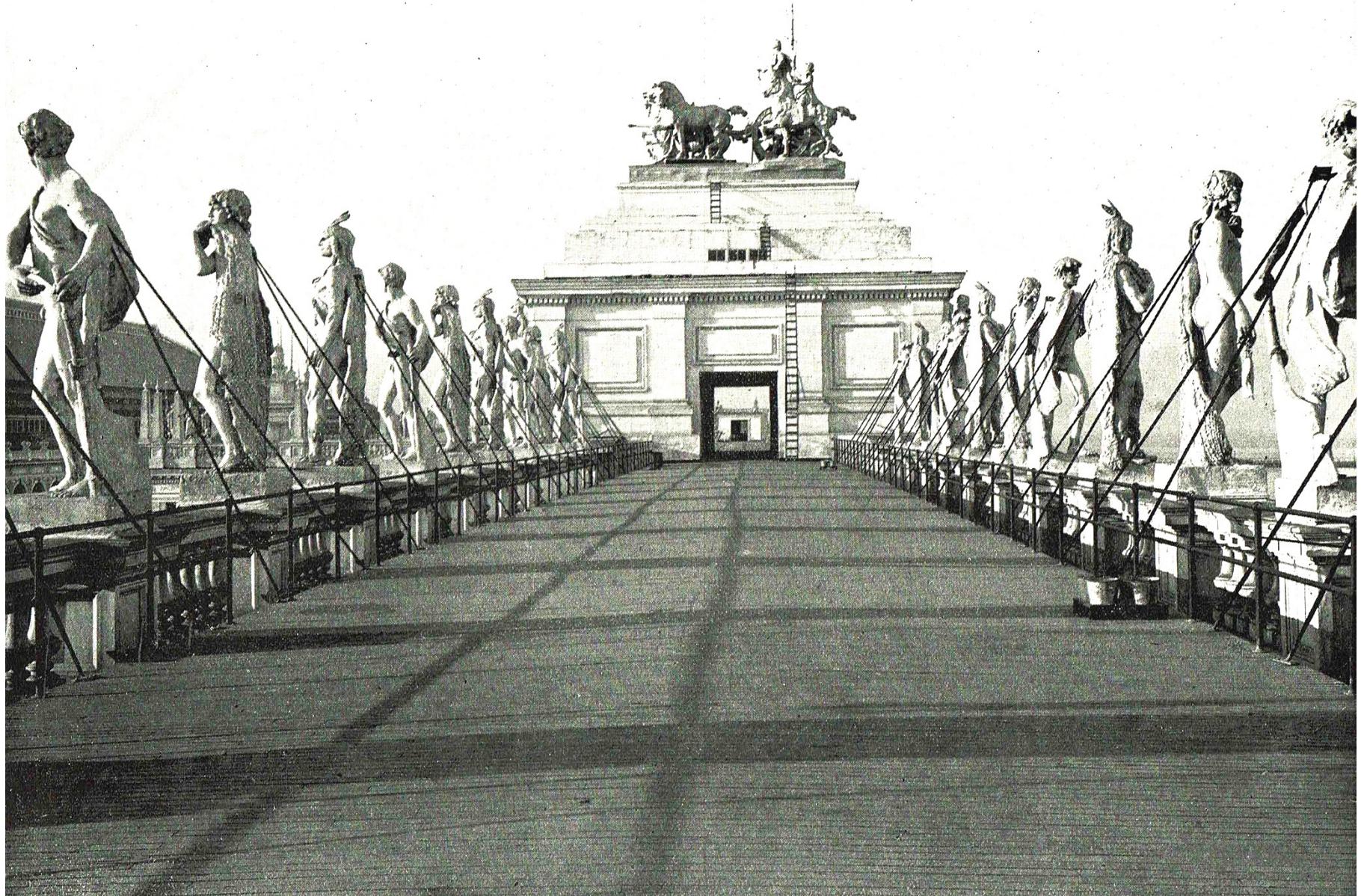
Arriving at the main exhibition terminal railway station.



Horticultural Building seen from the lake.



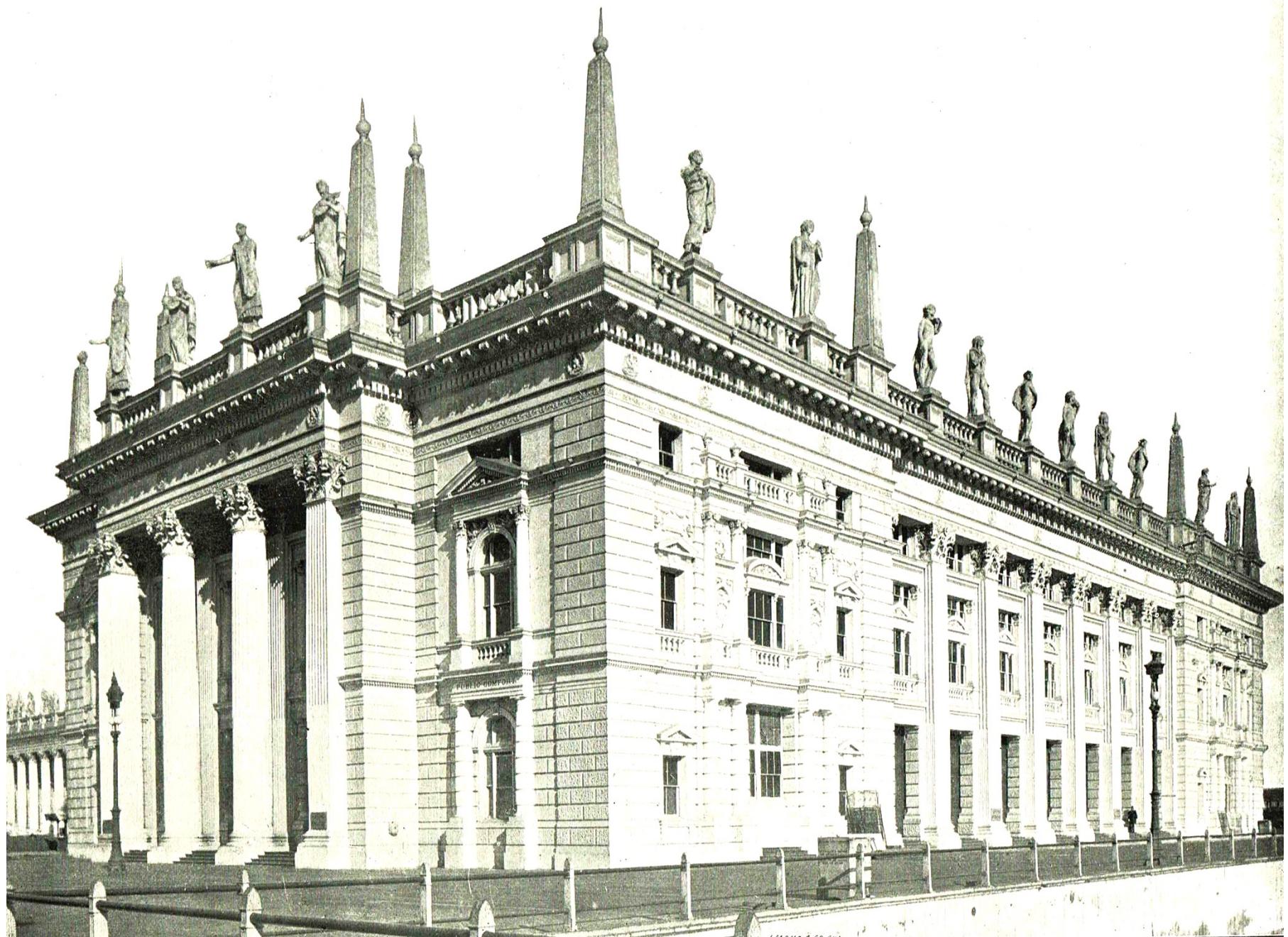
The Palace of Arts



From the Peristyle



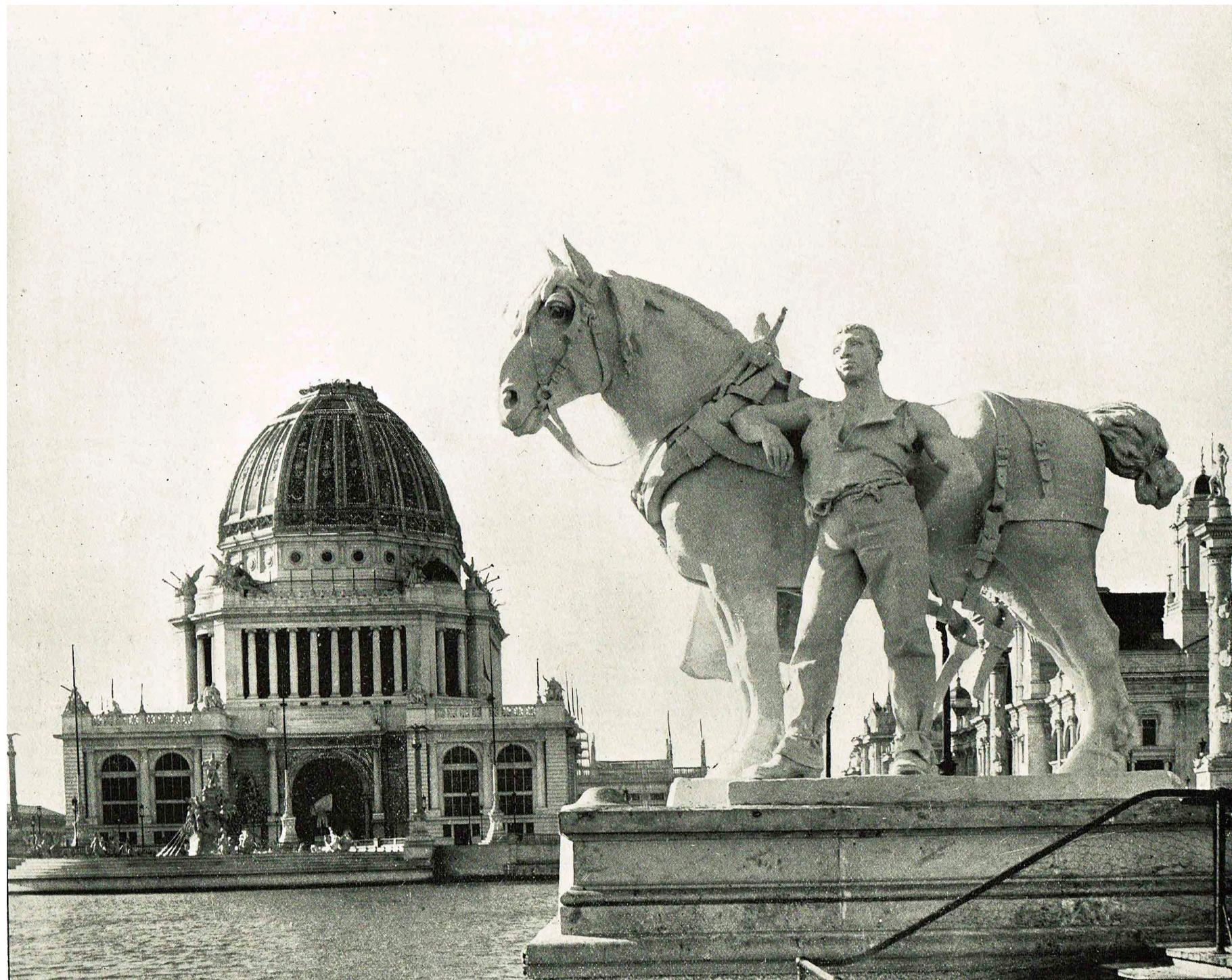
Electricity Building. Look at the crowds!



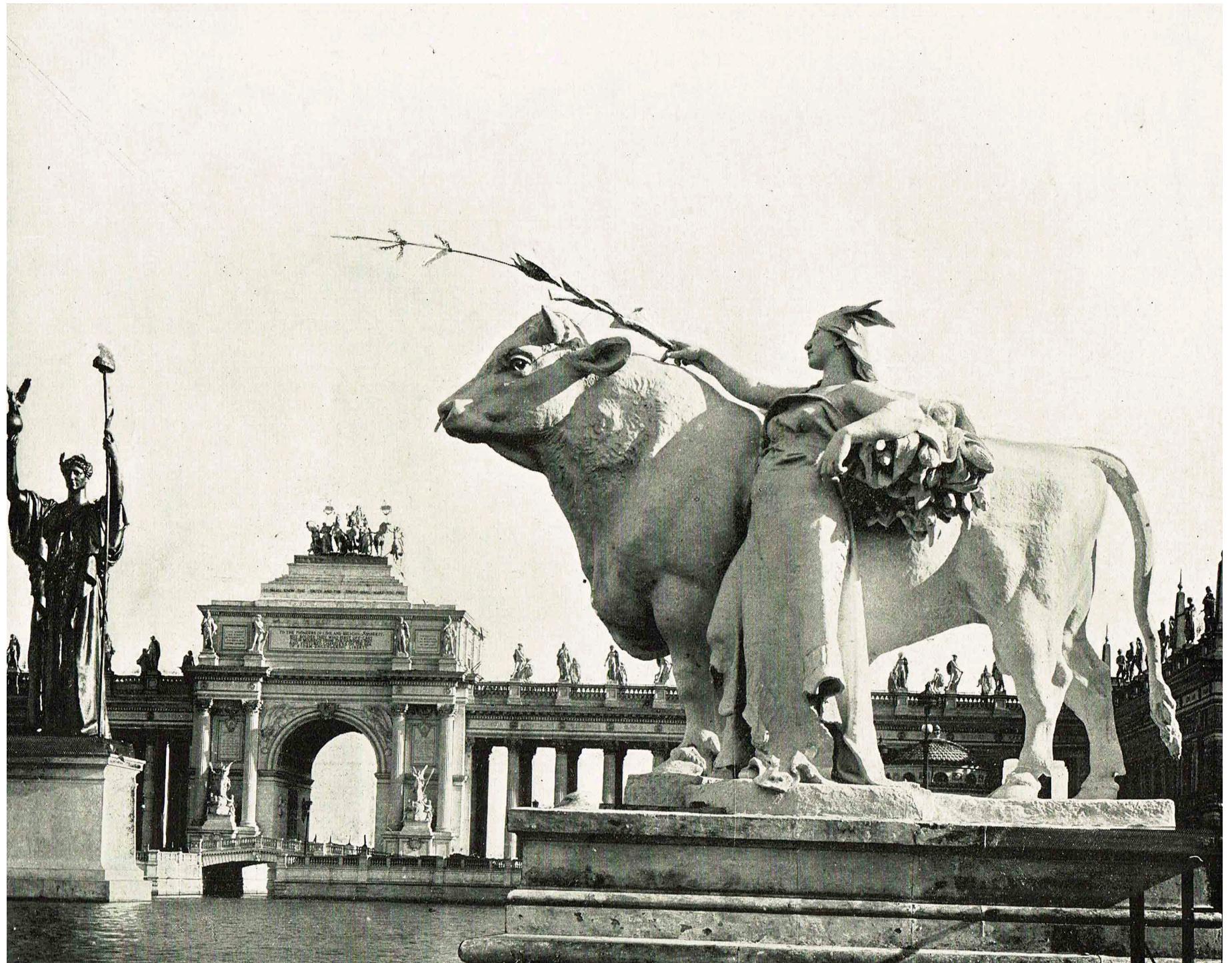
The Casino.



Exterior of Music Hall.



The Horse.



The Bull.



The Idaho Building.



The Missouri Building.



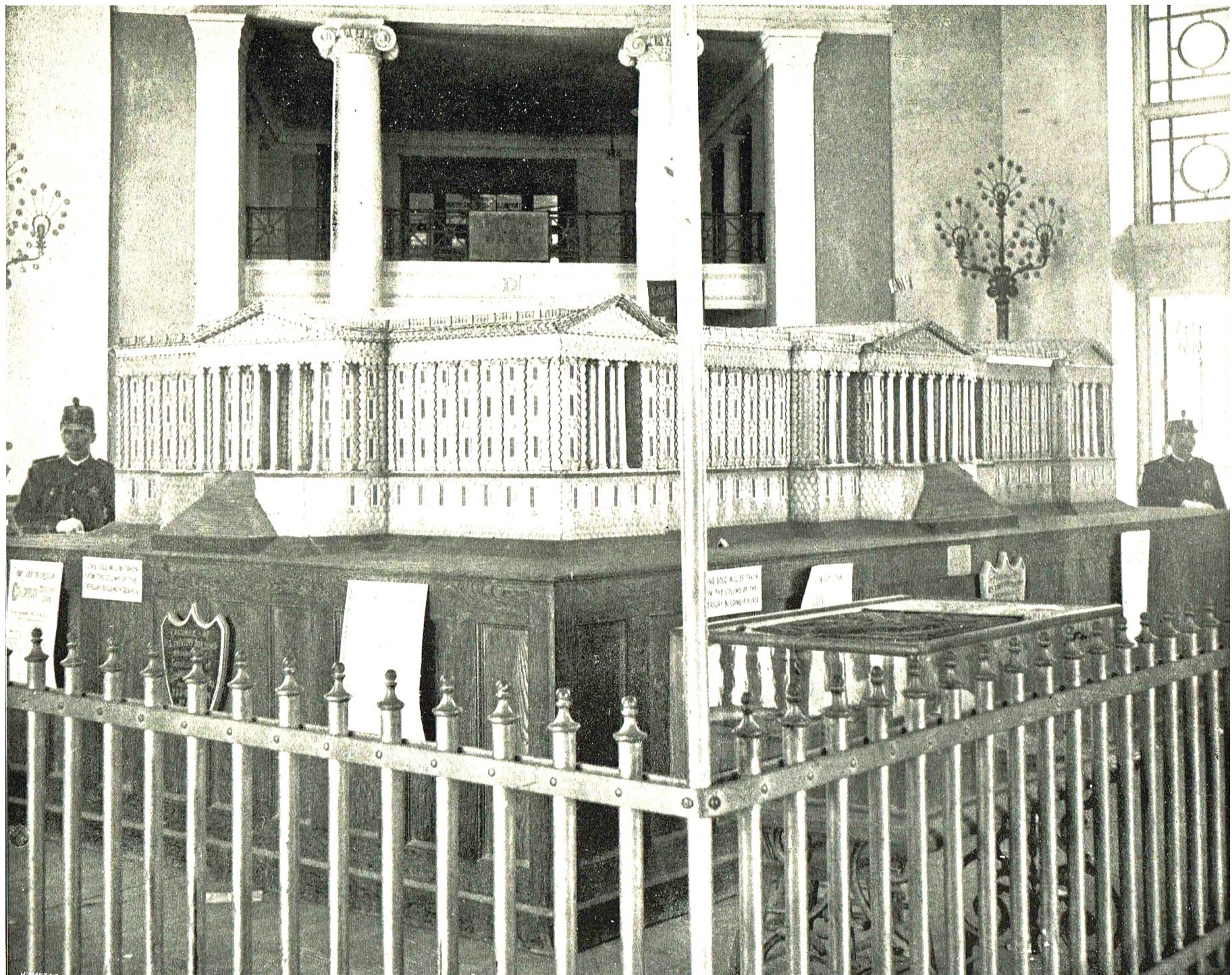
The Nebraska Building.



Frederick McMonnie's State Bark.



Bronzes in the French Abbey.



Model of US Treasury Building made out of coins.



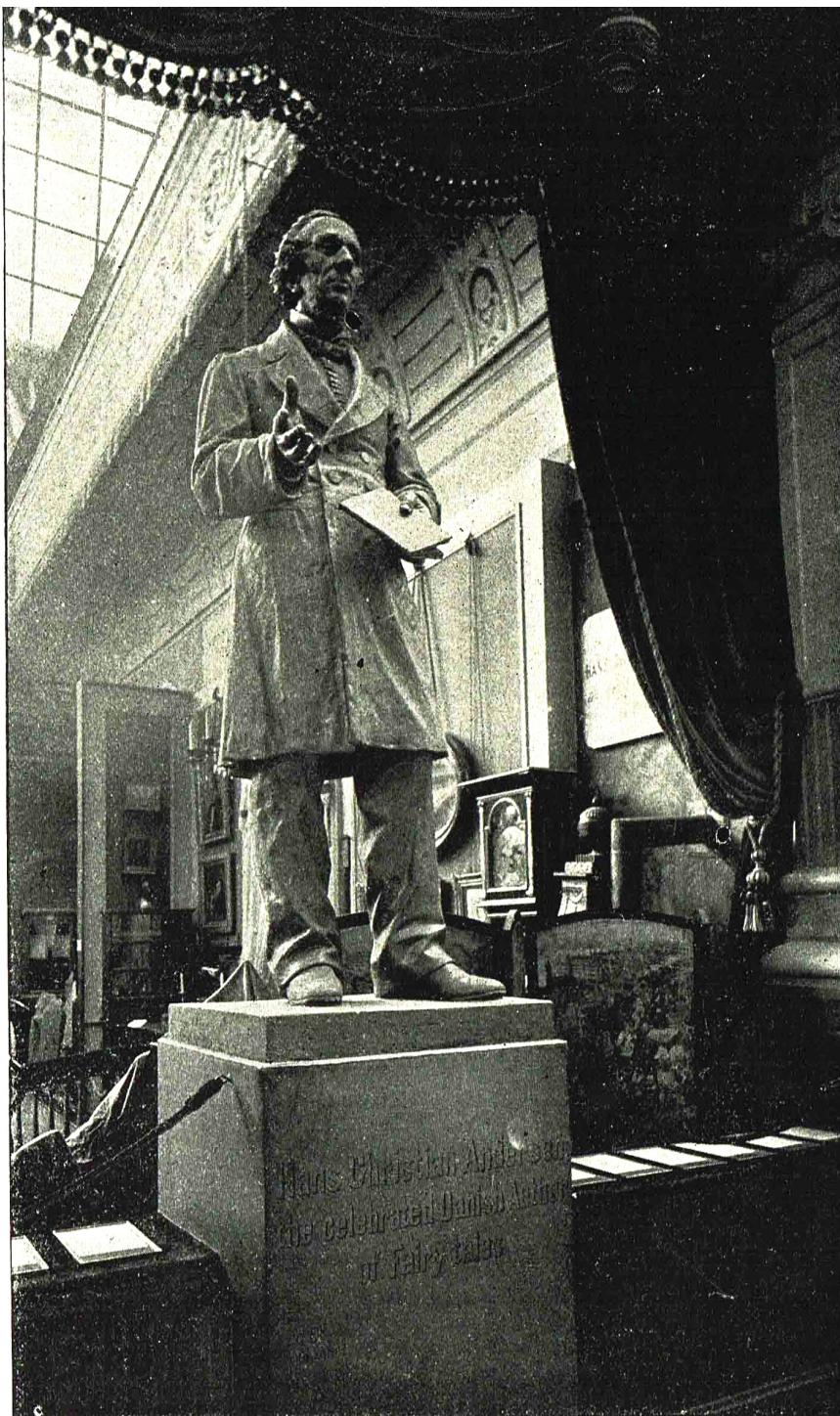
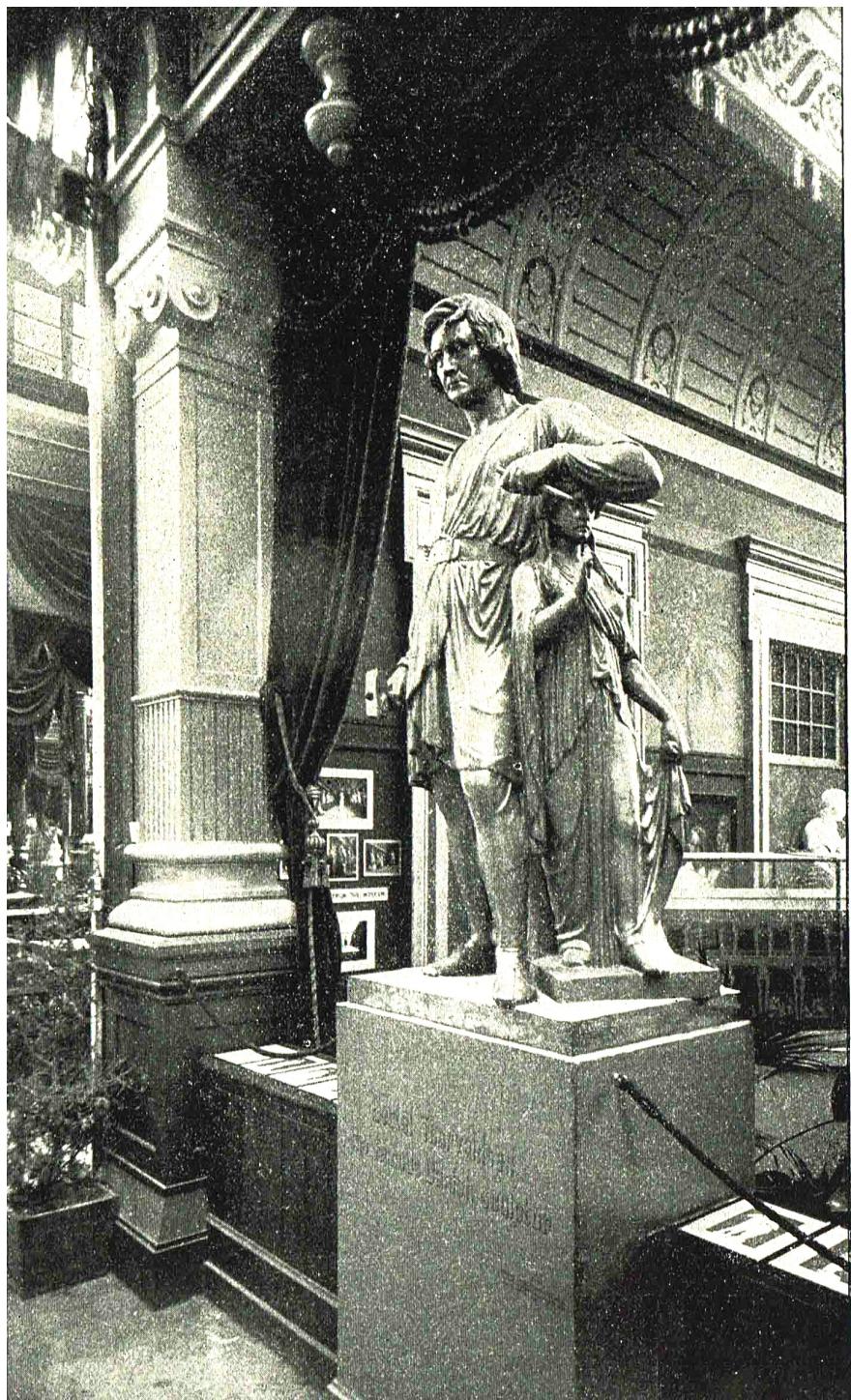
German Fountain.



German Iron Grille.



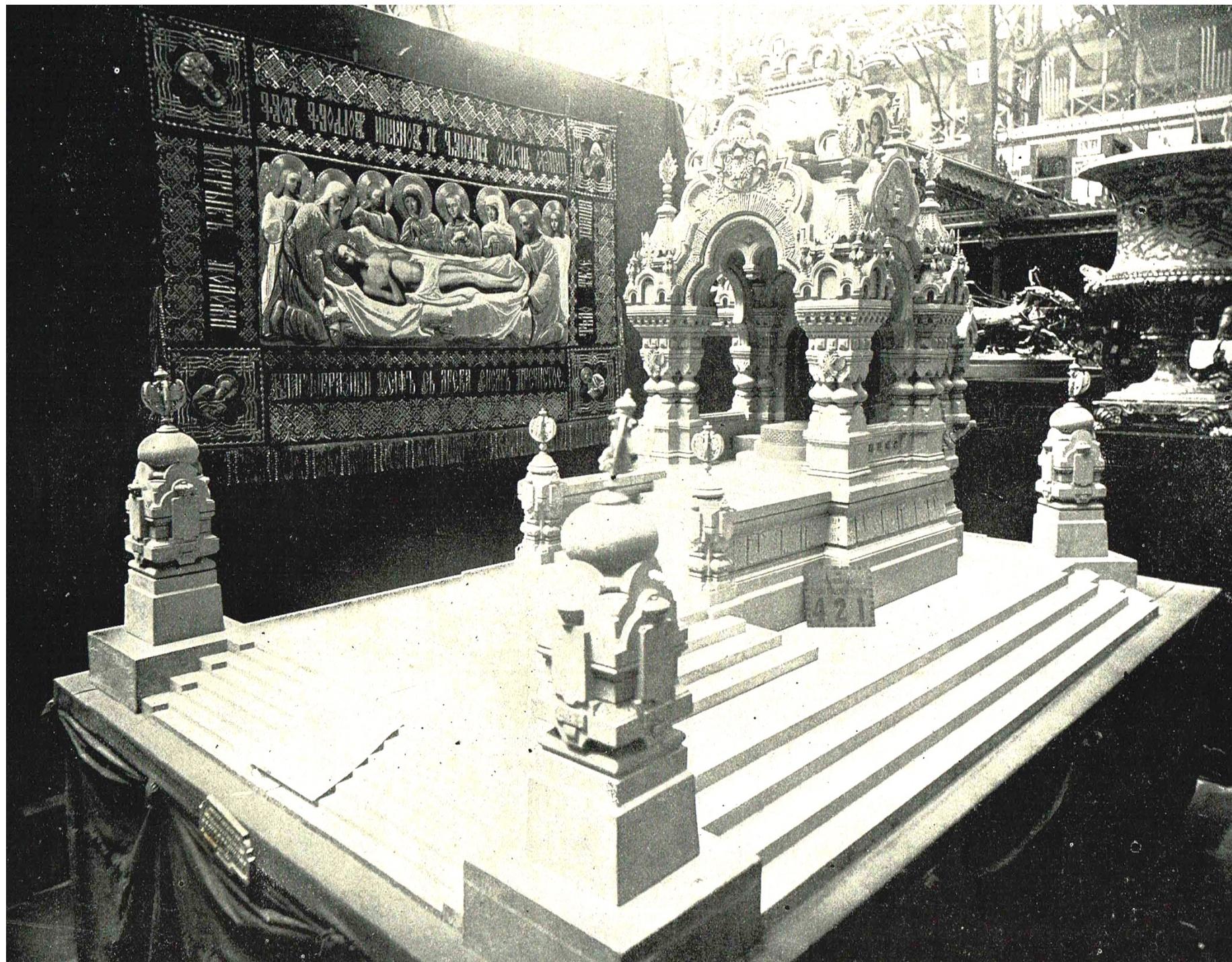
Bronzes in French section of Industry Building.



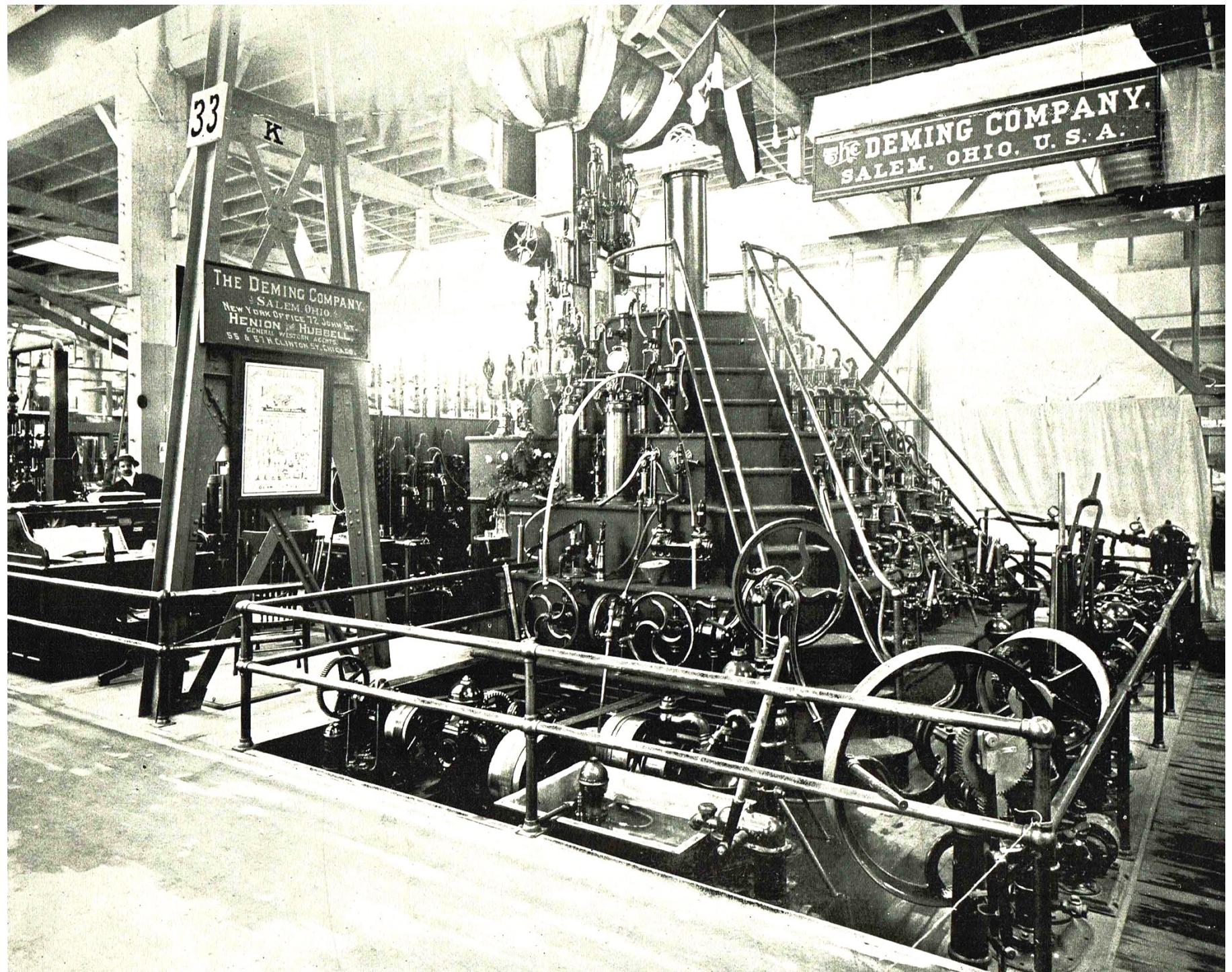
Statues of Thorwaldsen and Hans Christian Andersen.



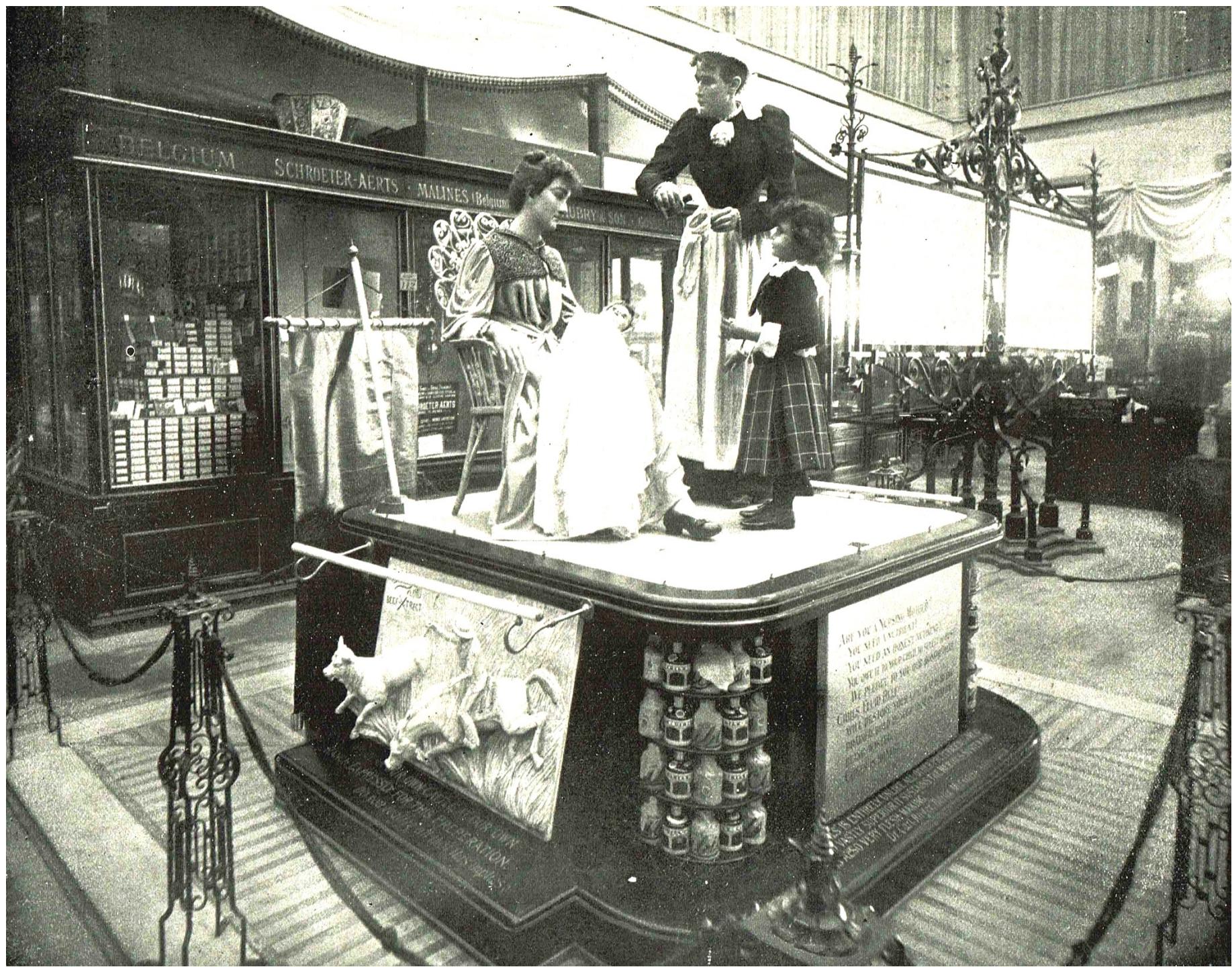
Inside East Indian Building.



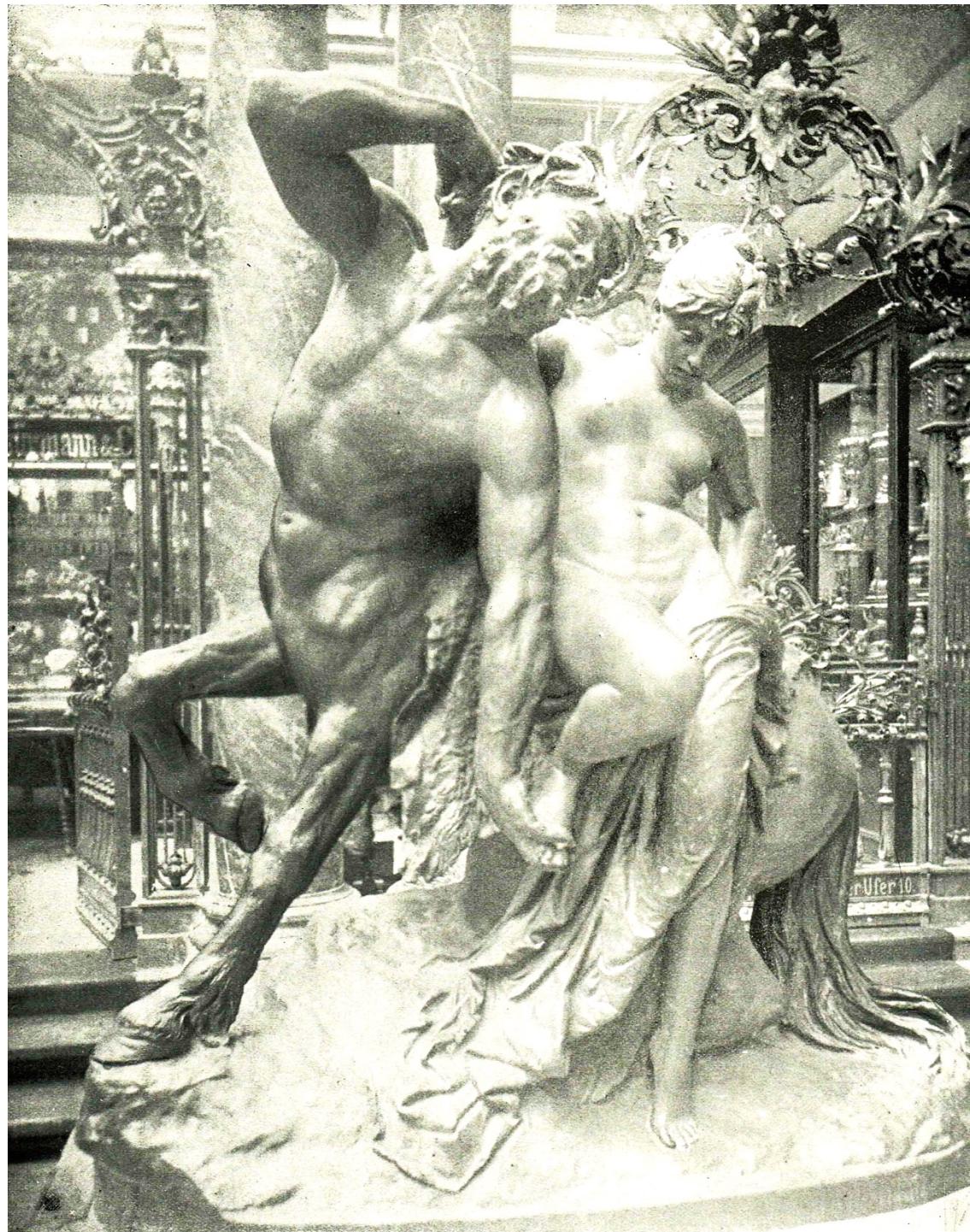
Monument for Czar Alexander II.



Demming Company Pumping Exhibit.



Are you a nursing mother? Close to Sybil's beef fry exhibit.



Nymph and Satyr ssulpture.

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